■ Saturday Special / A3-1 ■ Business / B1 ■ Across / A19 ■ Metro / A23 ■ World / A8 Tanong ng Bayan / A20

'The Swan' transforms 'ugly ducklings' into vivid beauties

Export growth in July slowest for 2004

Aglipay says sorry for Wapile boo-boo

San Mateo: Paradise in peril?

Israel threatens Syria strike after deadly bombings

OCW sa Iraq: Dapat na bang alisin?

WIN A 21" TV! TEXT 2910

Bush accepts nomination, promises a 'safer world'

NEW YORK—An unpopular war and 1.1 million lost jobs is enough to kill a presidency, so President George W. Bush tried Thursday night to make the election about something else: himself and his leadership style.

"Even when we don't agree, you know what I believe and where I stand," he told an anxious and divided nation as he accepted the

BUSH/ A12

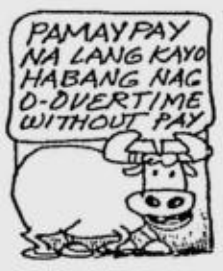
PHILIPPINE DAILY
INQUIRER
BALANCED NEWS, FEARLESS VIEWS

Palace turns off aircon in the name of austerity

By Juliet L. Javellana and Leila B. Salaverria

IN THE name of austerity, Malacañang will switch off its centralized air-conditioning between 12 noon to 1 p.m., and again

PALACE/ A10



email: feedback@inquirer.com.ph Saturday, September 4, 2004 ★★★ 74 pages / 8 sections / vol. 19 / no. 269 P18 website: www.inq7.net

School stormed, 100 dead

Reports say over 400 also wounded in Russian hostage crisis

BESLAN, Russia—Russia's hostage crisis came to a chaotic climax Friday, erupting into explosions, gunfire and screams of fleeing children as commandos stormed the school where militants strapped with bombs had held hundreds of captives for a third day. More than 100 people were killed and 400 others wounded, reports said.

Some 100 bodies lay on the floor of the school gymnasium where the hostages were held for three days—some apparently killed when the roof collapsed, reports from the Interfax news agency and private British television ITN said.

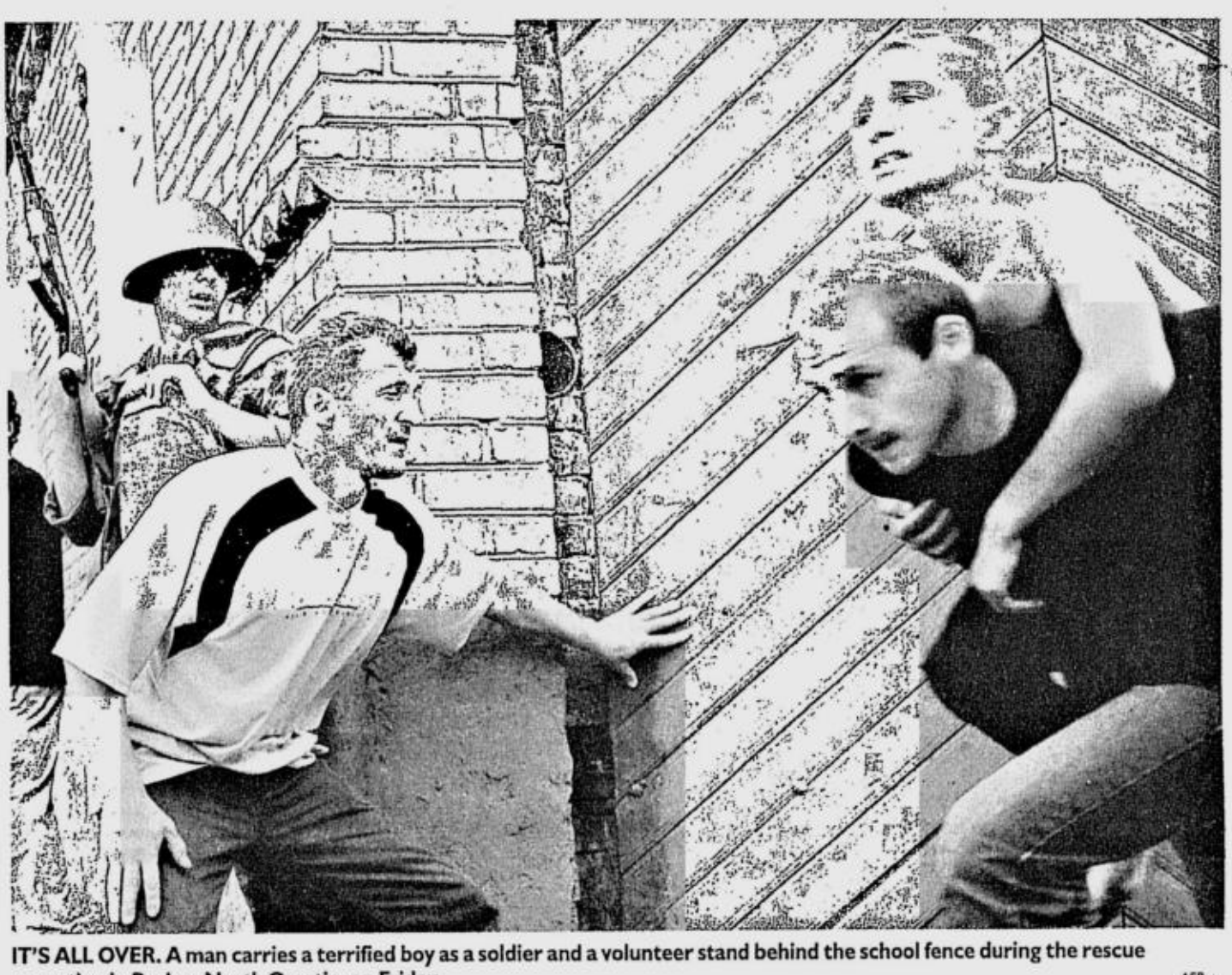
Russian forces killed five of the hostage-takers but 13 others escaped, the ITAR-Tass news agency reported. Troops backed by tanks were pursuing the militants, some of whom were said to be holed up in a house in the area as others attempted to blend in with the former hostages and crowd of townspeople in Beslan, ITAR-Tass said.

Police said the hostage-takers had split into three groups during the storming, which appears to have been unplanned. Some of them remained in the school, others apparently sought to escape southward in the town and others tried to mix in with the hostages, the Interfax news agency reported.

Russian authorities claimed to have control of the school, but sporadic gunfire continued to ring out in the area some three hours after the commandos' raid.

Regional president Alexander Dzasokhov

SCHOOL/ A10



IT'S ALL OVER. A man carries a terrified boy as a soldier and a volunteer stand behind the school fence during the rescue operation in Beslan, North Ossetia, on Friday. AFP

DEATH LEAP

Father kisses son ...

He prepares to jump ...

...And plunges.

Now, it's called the 'Bayanihan Fund'

By Juliet Labog-Javellana and Volt Contreras

WITH donation pledges pouring in from lawmakers, businessmen and ordinary citizens, Malacañang wants the mechanics of a national fund drive threshed out immediately to ensure orderly and transparent collection and utilization of the money.

President Macapagal-Arroyo yesterday promised that donations to what she called the "Bayanihan Fund" would not be misspent. "Every peso counts in this effort and we shall ensure that it is acknowledged and spent well on the most basic needs of our people," she said in a statement.

The donation pledges are aimed at helping the cash-strapped government solve the fiscal crisis.

In a radio interview, Press Secretary Ignacio Bunye raised the need to "sit down and discuss the mechanics" of the fund drive and "what would be the best way to have trans-

NOW, IT'S/ A10

GMA in 7th heaven, thanks China

By TJ Burgonio

BEIJING (via PLDT)—She was in seventh heaven.

This was how President Macapagal-Arroyo described her feelings yesterday as she prepared to fly back to Manila from a three-day state visit to China, bringing with her a harvest of nearly $1 billion worth of investments and soft loans, mostly in the trade, energy and agri-fisheries sectors.

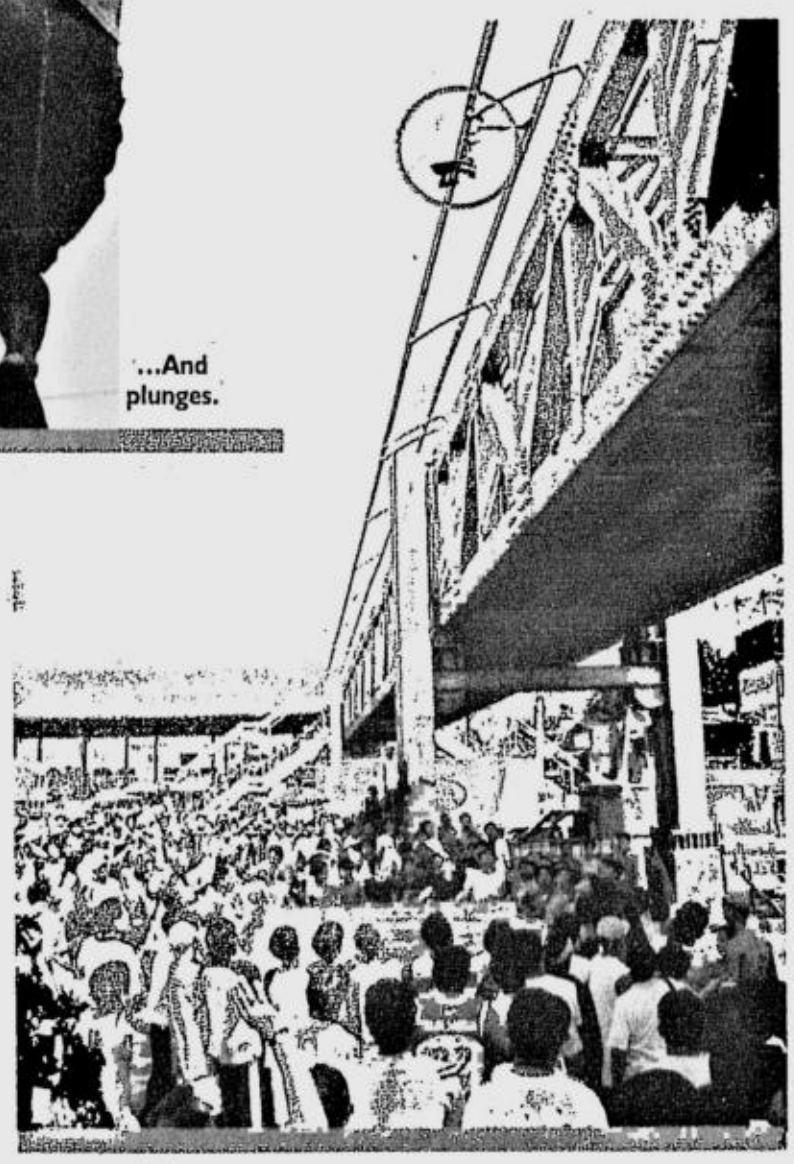
She was expected to arrive in Manila late last night.

Hours before departure, Ms Arroyo witnessed the signing of five major trade agreements between Filipino and Chinese business executives at the Kerry Centre Hotel here.

These included an agreement between China's Shenzhen Zhaoheng Industrial Co. Ltd. and the Philippines' Konka-Fulin Mining & Development Corp. to undertake the construction of a $30-million iron ore processing plant in Camarines Norte.

The ore plant, which can produce 3 million metric tons of iron ore per

GMA/ A10



Motorists and bystanders watch in horror as Nestor Silang (in circle, right) climbs a footbridge along Commonwealth Avenue in Quezon City with his one-year-old son, Nestor Jr., in his arms Friday. Pleas from authorities for Nestor, who was allegedly high on drugs, to turn over his son went unheeded. Nestor jumped, missed the safety canvas laid out for him, and suffered broken limbs. Nestor Jr. died. *(Full story on Page A23).* JOAN BONDOC

POST-ABORTION CARE

Doctors, nurses lack basic skill to handle 'A' cases

By Stella O. Gonzales

(Second of three parts)

DOCTORS and nurses spend at least seven and four years in medical and nursing school, respectively, but despite the intensive education, many of them lack the basic training to handle post-abortion patients.

SPECIAL REPORT

In 1999, the Philippine office of the US nongovernment organization EngenderHealth initiated a health-based program for patients who develop post-abortion complications.

The program was the offshoot of a study showing healthcare workers' biases against such patients, the prevalent use of dilation and curettage (D&C), the lack (in fact, almost non-existence) of counseling for patients, and the absence of specific policies and guidelines on the subject.

EngenderHealth presented the program to the Department of Health and proposed to train hospital-based doctors, nurses and midwives who had direct contact with

DOCTORS/ A17

Who's right: GMA, ₱1B, Pagcor, ₱3B

By Gil C. Cabacungan and Michael Lim Ubac

THE PHILIPPINE Amusement and Gaming Corp. claims to have remitted close to P3 billion, not P1 billion as President Macapagal-Arroyo has said, to the President's Social Fund over the past three years.

Edward "Dodie" King, who heads the media and information office of the state gaming firm, said Pagcor had given an average of P1 billion a year from its earnings as its mandatory contribution to the President's Social Fund.

This is contrary to the President's claim in an Aug. 27 RMN radio interview that her Social Fund amounted to only P1 billion, or roughly P330 million a year, from 2001 to 2003.

Press Secretary Ignacio Bunye also confirmed the President's declaration.

King said the President may have been referring to the amount that she actually received in cash, explaining

WHO'S RIGHT/ A18

Top customs official dismissed, charged for graft

By Volt Contreras and Doris C. Dumlao

THE OMBUDSMAN has ordered the dismissal from service of a high-ranking customs official and the filing of graft charges against him for allegedly allowing a steel company to avoid paying P14.7 million in import duties and taxes in 2001.

Charges are to be filed at the Sandiganbayan antigraft court against Deputy Commissioner Gil Valera of the Bureau of Customs, and private respondent Antonio Lorenzana of the Steel Asia Manufacturing Corp. (SAMC).

Valera, who heads the BoC's revenue collection and monitoring group and who is facing a separate justice department investigation for the BOC's alleged bungling of the prosecution of tax fraud cases involving P1 billion, became the third tax official to be targeted by the Ombudsman since July.

Ombudsman Simeon Marcelo earlier suspended an officer of the Bureau of Internal Revenue for the questionable rise in his net worth, and another BIR lawyer for amassing

TOP CUSTOMS/ A6

WEATHER FORECAST

FORECAST: Central and Northern Luzon will have mostly cloudy skies with scattered rainshowers and thunderstorms. The rest of the country will have partly cloudy to cloudy skies with isolated rainshowers and thunderstorms.

SOURCE: PAGASA

COMPILED BY RAY LEYESA, PDI RESEARCH/09/04/04

E-mail: pr_news@inquirer.com.ph

Second FRONTPAGE

Text us your feedback: inquirer news name/city/message to 2207 (Globe) or 283 (Smart)

Metro Manila	Partly Cloudy	Iloilo/Bacolod	Partly Cloudy
Baguio	Cloudy with Rains	Roxas	Partly Cloudy
Tuguegarao	Cloudy with Rains	Cebu	Partly Cloudy
Laoag	Cloudy with Rains	Tacloban	Partly Cloudy
Clark Zone	Cloudy with Rains	Gen. Santos	Partly Cloudy
Tagaytay	Cloudy with Rains	Zamboanga	Partly Cloudy
Legazpi	Partly Cloudy	Cagayan de Oro	Partly Cloudy
Calapan	Partly Cloudy	Davao	Partly Cloudy

Proposed tax on churches, other religious groups nixed

By Blanche S. Rivera and Cynthia D. Balana

INSTEAD of collecting taxes from the Church, why not give a portion of the taxes you collect to the church?

Manila Archbishop Gaudencio Rosales made the remark yesterday in reaction to proposals to tax the church and other religious organizations, saying that all religions could use the money for development projects.

Rosales said it was about time that the Philippine government studied the viability of giving back a small part of the people's taxes to their religious sects to be used for the members' development.

The prelate said that religion tax need not be separate from what the people are already paying but could be a percentage taken from the current taxes and given back to the taxpayer's religious organization.

"It's different from taxing religion. Religion tax is what you give to government," Rosales said.

"Religion tax is better because it goes back to your religion and would be used for development. What the Muslims pay would go back to the Muslims, what the Catholics pay would be used for Catholics," he said.

Taxing the church has been one of the proposals given to address the looming fiscal crisis, with the budget deficit pegged to reach P200 billion at the end of the year.

The Philippine constitution exempts churches exempt from paying real property taxes for properties directly used for educational, religious and charitable purposes.

Rosales maintained that churches should be taxed if they were involved in business ventures. But he said that churches doing business were already paying taxes.

"Let's just be honest in this thing. If anything is taxable, sure tax the church. What do you think of the church, greedy?" Rosales said.

The archbishop, however, added that taxing the church, essentially, was "irrational." "How do you tax baptism, marriage, death? It's irrational," he said.

Caritas-Manila president Fr. Anton Pascual said that religion tax would allow the religious organizations to be involved in developing constituents.

As this developed, Buhay Party-list Rep. Rene Velarde yesterday opposed the proposal to tax the various churches in the country, saying such a move would be unconstitutional.

Velarde, son of El Shaddai leader Bro. Mike Velarde, said that taxing the church violates the provision of the Constitution which guaranteed the inviolable separation of the church and the state.

In Congress, legislators called on religious leaders to become "role models" by paying the proper taxes for their profitable enterprises and doing their share to help the government recover from the current crisis.

Rep. Bienvenido Abante (6th District, Manila) said that taking cover behind the shield of the tax exemption of charitable institutions and religious organizations is "tax avoidance which is not illegal so we are asking religious leaders to help the country fight the fiscal crisis by registering their business and commercial establishments."

Abante said: "Being a bishop I should be against this taxation but listen our government is in a fiscal crisis *nakakatakot ang problema ng ating bansa ngayon.*"

JOB FAIR
Hundreds of unemployed Filipinos form a long line to apply for available jobs during the Filipino Chinese Chamber of Commerce Job Fair at the Federation building on Muelle de Binondo. JESS YUSON

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The New Central Bank Act and Related Banking Laws
By Raul S. Roco

THE NEW CENTRAL BANK ACT: A SUMMARY

The BSP is mandated to make regular reports to the President and Congress in layman's terms. While imposing a high degree of diligence on the Monetary Board, R.A. 7653 grants the members an indemnification against suits filed against them in the performance of their duties.

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The law has suppletory effect on the Rural Banks Act of 1992 (R.A. 7353) and the Thrift Banks Act of 1995 (R.A. 7906) and applies to R.A. 7721, "An Act Liberalizing the Entry and Scope of Operations of Foreign Banks in the Philippines and for Other Purposes."

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- Gov. Rafael B. Buenaventura

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This book will be particularly useful to bank supervisors and bankers for it lays down the meaning, legislative intent, evolution and the reasons for every provision of the law."

- Former Gov. Gabriel C. Singson

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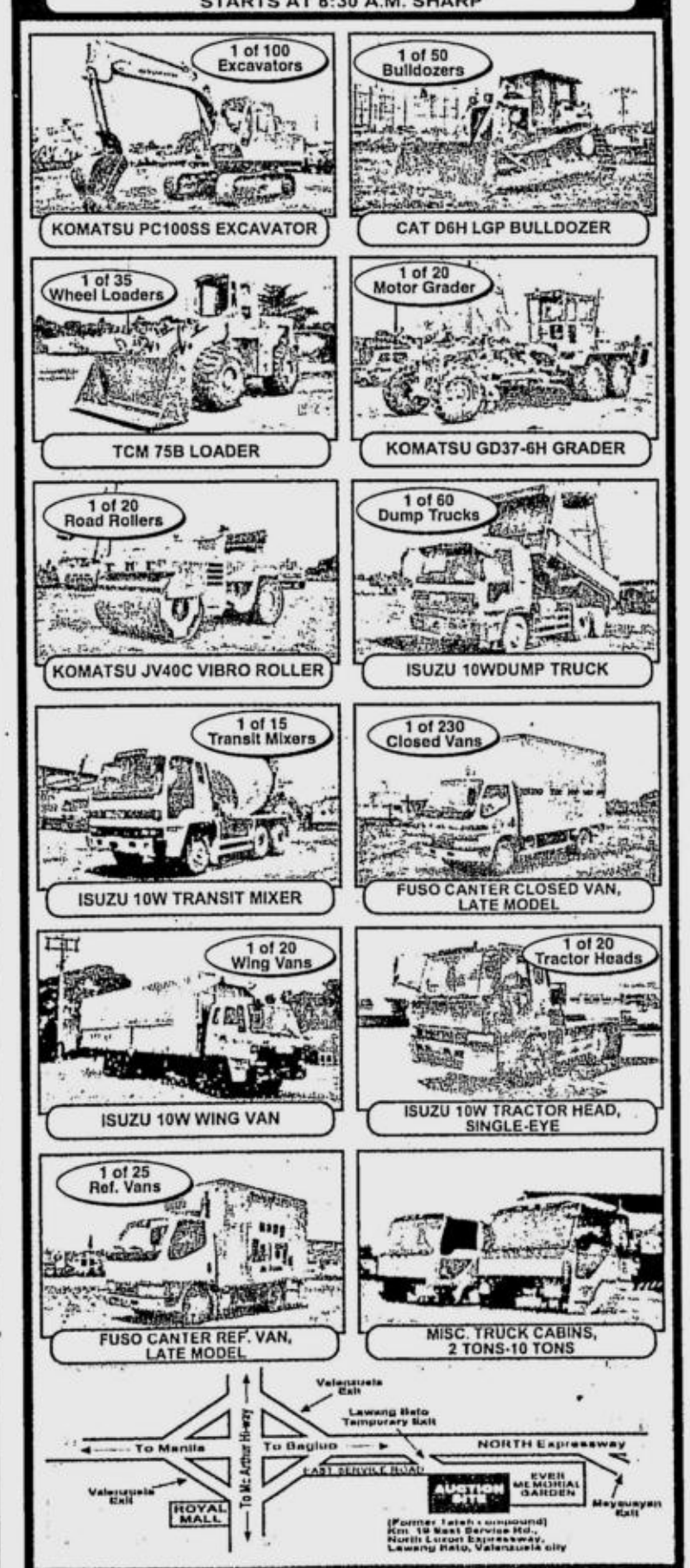

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Military warns vs cut in intelligence funds

By Alcuin Papa

THE ARMED Forces of the Philippines yesterday warned against cutting its intelligence funds as proposed by Congress, saying this will affect the Philippines efforts to fight global terrorism.

"There is a need for intelligence funds. It (possible reduction) will have a telling effect on our effectiveness to run after these terrorists and other characters," AFP Chief of Staff Gen. Narciso Abaya said.

He added: "I can guarantee you that a lot of missions are accomplished because of what these intelligence funds can do."

Abaya told reporters after the 67th anniversary of the AFP Medical Center in Quezon City that as is the usual practice, he could not disclose how these funds are spent. But he guaranteed that the funds are used well and that a lot has been accomplished against terrorism with the use of these funds.

Defense officials have repeatedly said that members of the Indonesia-based Jemaah Islamiyah, a group with links to Osama Bin Laden's Al-Qaida network, are training local and foreign terrorists in Mt. Kararao in Lanao del Sur.

Aside from the Jemaah Islamiyah, the AFP is also hunting down remnants of the dreaded Abu Sayyaf Group, numbering less than 500 bandits, who have been engaged in kidnappings of local and foreign tourists in the past decade. The military is also fighting around 10,000 communist New People's Army rebels. On the other hand, the AFP is enforcing a ceasefire with the secessionist Moro Islamic Liberation Front.

Abaya also said the AFP has long been contributing to the government's austerity program by using "internally generated funds" and cutting down on non-essential activities.

"When I took over, I said that we will cut down on non-mission essential activities. That's exactly what we did and we went through the whole year of 2003 without asking any additional funds from the DBM (Department of Budget and Management), using internally generated funds. We cut down on non-essential activities like athletic events and parades," Abaya stressed.

He added that the AFP has enough funds to run and support units doing "essential activities" in line with the military's mission.

Abaya, who heads the 130,000-strong AFP, also said soldiers could not emulate the act of members of the Philippine National Police who pledged the other day a day's salary to help the government's austerity program. Abaya argued that the soldiers were already making big sacrifices as it were. "The soldiers are already making big sacrifices. Their wages were just recently raised because of all their sacrifices in the field. So maybe now is not the right time," Abaya said.

He added that it would be possible for AFP personnel to contribute their salaries if there were other savings from the budget of the AFP.

"The sacrifices of the soldiers is so big and their take home pay is so small. Their take home pay is not enough so I am not inclined to let them donate their one-day salary," said Abaya.

BILATERAL MEETING
President Macapagal Arroyo poses with Prime Minister Thaksin Shiniwatra of Thailand following their bilateral meeting held at the State Guest House. JERRY CARUAL/PCPO-MALACAÑANG

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COA stance on Luna work puzzles GSIS

TOP officials of the Government Service Insurance System are puzzled over a recent report of the legal officer of the Commission on Audit disallowing the purchase of the Juan Luna masterpiece, Parisian Life, over the objections of the COA resident auditor who earlier upheld the acquisition and considered it an allowable investment, citing the GSIS Charter and Supreme Court decisions.

The COA decision came almost two years after the purchase was made during a public auction at Christie's in Hong Kong in October 2002.

The GSIS officials are also surprised by the stance of the COA legal officer that the purchase of the Luna painting "is morally objectionable" when in fact COA itself and other government institutions such as the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas, the DBP, SSS and Napocor were allowed to make purchases for their own art collections.

The officials also questioned why the pension fund was allowed to accumulate more than 300 artworks and paintings for its art museum over the past decades and now say the Parisian Life purchase is not allowed.

A recent report of COA Legal Officer Director Rogelio Tablang ruled that the purchase of the Parisian Life, as well as two Amorsolo paintings, "Under the Mango Tree "and "Ricefield," is disallowed, saying it is prejudicial to the system.

GSIS executive vice president for Finance Omelita Tiangco said that the investment in the Luna masterpiece satisfies the requirements of liquidity, safety/security and yield.

"It is our experience that our art investments of more than 300 paintings have outperformed other investments in our portfolio," Ms Tiangco said.

The painting, bought for $800,000, is now considered a national treasure and is considered by art critics as a crucial thread of Philippine art history.

"How can the COA lawyers say now that the purchase is prejudicial to the system when the value of the painting has increased considerably? We feel there is more to the COA disallowance than meets the eye," she added.

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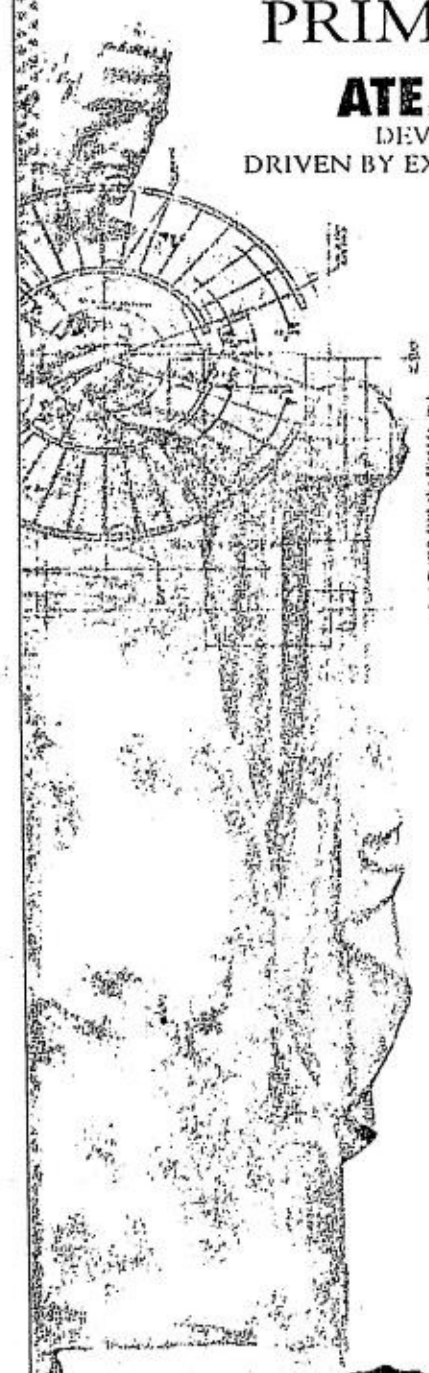

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QUALS

Pinay maid who won suit vs Sony exec decries slavery

LOS ANGELES — A Filipino woman who won $825,000 in a lawsuit claiming a Hollywood executive and his wife enslaved her called Thursday for an end to human trafficking.

"Slavery still exists, and I want to tell victims they should not tolerate it and should not be afraid to seek help," Nena Ruiz said at a news conference.

Ruiz, 60 is a former schoolteacher from the Philippines who worked as a domestic servant for James Jackson and his wife, Elizabeth.

Jackson is vice president of legal affairs for Sony Pictures Entertainment.

In a lawsuit filed last year, Ruiz claimed that she was paid $300 for a year's work at the couple's Culver City condominium.

Ruiz said she often worked 18 hours a day and was forced to do strange household chores such as heating chicken nuggets and cutting up bananas or pears for the couple's two dogs while she was fed leftovers and slept in a dog bed.

Ruiz also alleged that Elizabeth Jackson repeatedly slapped her and pulled her hair.

She finally left the couple to stay with a neighbor in the condominium complex.

Last week, a jury awarded her back wages and punitive damages against the Jacksons, finding them liable for involuntary servitude, false imprisonment, invasion of privacy, negligence and fraud. Elizabeth Jackson also was held liable for assault and battery.

The US attorney's office has begun a criminal investigation into possible civil rights violations.

The Jacksons filed for bankruptcy protection days before the lawsuit trial began. Their attorneys have asked the judge to overturn the punitive damage award and indicated they may appeal the entire case.

"This is a case of credibility when there are no witnesses. The plaintiff says one thing, and my client denied it all and still denies it," attorney John Daniels said. *AP*

DoJ studying Misuari's bid to post bail

By Philip C. Tubeza

THE DEPARTMENT of Justice is cool to Muslim rebel leader Nur Misuari's bid to post bail even after he supported President Macapagal-Arroyo in the last May 10 elections, Justice Secretary Raul Gonzalez said yesterday.

Gonzalez said the DOJ is still carefully studying Misuari's bid since he is "not an ordinary prisoner" and his case "involves national security."

Misuari, former chair of the secessionist Moro National Liberation Front and former governor of the Autonomous Region for Muslim Mindanao (ARMM), was charged in court with rebellion in connection with the uprising he led in Mindanao in 2001.

"I have yet to see his records. We have to study this carefully because there is a national security aspect involved," Gonzalez said.

Misuari and six others were charged with rebellion before Judge Norberto Y. Geraldez of the Calamba, Laguna Regional Trial Court Branch 36 after about 600 of Misuari's supporters attacked military outposts and a police station in Jolo, Sulu, on Nov. 19, 2001 in a bid to stop the ARMM elections.

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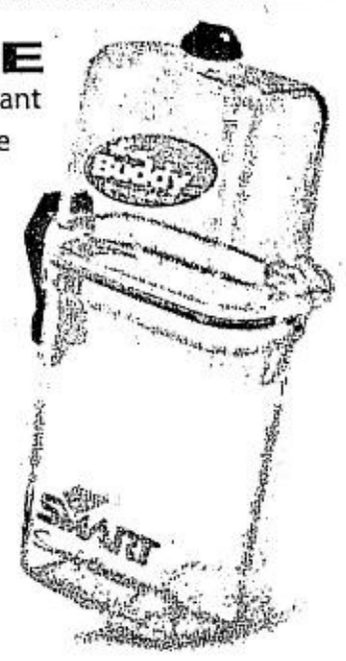

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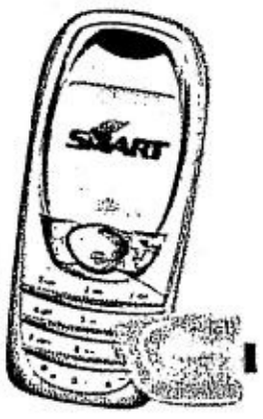

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Across-the-board wage hikes pushed

By Carlito Pablo

WARNING that a "social volcano" is about to erupt because of the economic crisis, party-list lawmakers are pushing for legislated, across-the-board pay increases for both private and government workers.

Legislators led by party-list Reps. Crispin Beltran and Rafael Mariano have filed House Bill Nos. 1063 and 1064 providing for a P125 daily wage hike for private employees, and a P3,000 a month salary increase for state employees, respectively.

The last legislated wage hike came before 1989 when the government adopted the Wage Rationalization Act of 1989 which placed the task of studying and fixing minimum wages on the Regional Tripartite Wages and Productivity Board (RTWPB).

Mariano said the wage increase would provide people some relief in the face of rising costs of goods and services.

"It is very possible for the boiling social volcano to erupt amidst the worsening economic crisis," Mariano said.

House Bill No. 1063 cited a June 2001 study by the Department of Labor and Employment's National Wages and Productivity Commission (NWPC) which showed that workers' pay falls below the cost of living standards.

Cost of living refers to income that could meet the food and non-food requirements of a particular family.

The NWPC noted that the cost of living for a family of six in the National Capital Region is around P15,300 or P510 a day.

"The prevailing daily minimum wage, however, is only P250 for non-agricultural workers and P213 for agricultural workers," according to House Bill No. 1063.

"The gap between the minimum wage and cost of living ranges from a low of P260 to a high of P297."

The situation is worse in other regions where minimum wages are lower compared to that in Metro Manila.

"The P125 wage hike as demanded by (private) workers would bring minimum wages to within 64 percent to 68 percent of cost of living estimates," the bill said. "A P125 hike is therefore still insufficient yet substantial to raise the quality of life of 16 million workers and their dependents."

In pushing for a legislated wage hike, the proposed measure noted that the Constitution itself mandated Congress to "give the highest priority to the enactment of measures that protect and enhance the right of all people to human dignity, reduce social, economic and political inequalities ... by equitably diffusing wealth and power for the common good."

House Bill No. 1064 also noted that the average pay of government workers is P8,709 per month, which, like those of their counterparts in the private sector, is not sufficient to meet cost of living standards.

It would take an additional P52 billion to finance the P3,000 monthly pay increase for government workers.

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Pentagon gang leader killed

SECURITY forces killed a suspected leader of a kidnap gang and arrested another in separate operations in Mindanao, the military said Friday.

Kurato Tapuyak alias "Anton," the No. 2 leader of the Pentagon Kidnap-for-Ransom gang, was shot dead Thursday night by members of the Army's 604th Infantry Brigade under Col. Jerry Jalandoni and the Tacurong City police in Barangay Kayaga, Buluan, Maguindanao. *A. Papa*

Top customs official dismissed, charged

From page A1

some P20 million in alleged ill-gotten wealth for the past two decades.

In a statement, the Ombudsman said there were two other grounds for recommending Valera's dismissal: for going on unauthorized foreign trips and for improperly helping a brother-in-law get a job in a brokerage firm.

'Harassment case'

But Valera yesterday challenged the Ombudsman's decision which he said constituted "contempt of court" as the case in question was already before the Supreme Court where the Ombudsman had appealed it after the case was dismissed by the Court of Appeals on June 25.

"The CA already declared that the charge against me was purely a harassment case. I'm surprised that they are now preempting the SC's decision on their appeal by issuing a ruling on its merits," Varela said.

In a letter to Finance Secretary Juanita Amatong yesterday, Varela said he would go to the SC to appeal the Ombudsman's decision.

Collection case

The case concerns a revenue collection case against the SAMC amounting to P37.2 million in unpaid import duties and taxes in October 2001. The bureau had discovered that the SAMC had allegedly presented fake tax credit certificates to secure the release of its imported goods and filed a civil suit against the firm with the Manila Regional Trial Court on Dec. 21, 2001.

The SAMC offered to enter into a compromise agreement to resolve the case.

According to the the Ombudsman's graft investigation report, the BOC, through Valera, executed an "unauthorized" compromise agreement with the SAMC on Jan. 30, 2002 that "gave unwarranted benefits (to the company) in the total uncollected amount of P14,762,467.70."

The agreement was also without proper authority from the President and the Department of Finance, and caused "undue injury to the government," said Ombudsman's spokesperson Ernesto Nocos.

Closer scrutiny

Nocos noted that the Manila Regional Court had approved the compromise agreement.

Upon closer scrutiny, however, it was revealed that some provisions of the agreement were disadvantageous to the government, such as the staggered payment for a 30-month period without any interest, and condonation of the BOC claim for damages in the amount of P14,762,467.70, Nocos said.

The agreement was also found to be questionable for stating that the payments would not be considered as "evidence of any wrongdoing on the part of the SAMC," he added.

Valera will be charged for violating the Anti-Graft Law and the Tariff and Customs Code of the Philippines. Lorenzana will be his co-respondent in the graft case, Nocos said.

In-law employment

An additional charge concerns the employment of Valera's brother-in-law Ariel Manongdo in Cactus Cargo System brokerage firm which Valera allegedly facilitated in violation of the Code of Conduct and Ethical Standards for Public Officials and Employees.

Nocos said Valera's dismissal from government service was "justified" given his position in the BOC and "the extent of the injury to the government" caused by the compromise agreement.

The penalty also took into account the "the impropriety surrounding the employment of his brother-in-law, and (his) traveling abroad without proper authority," he said.

Valera defense

In an interview yesterday, Varela argued that the SAMC's compromise offer was an excellent opportunity to raise badly needed revenues for the government.

He said he believed the compromise agreement was consistent with previous practice of his predecessors at the bureau of accepting settlement of 100 percent of the principal amount of the assessment, without the interests, surcharges and penalties, instead of engaging in protracted litigation.

Manila RTC Judge Leticia Sablan had ruled that the compromise agreement was "not contrary to law, morals, customs, public order and public policy."

Upheld by CA

The CA's Special 1st Division in its June ruling, found merit in Varela's argument that there was nothing wrong with the compromise deal, noting that Varela's superiors, Customs Commissioner Titus Villanueva and the latter's successor Antonio Bernardo, did not rescind the agreement.

"Instead, petitioner's superiors clearly affirmed this correct, prudent and legal act of collecting 100 percent principal amount amounting to P37.2 million for our cash-strapped government," the CA ruling said.

Varela said that despite the Ombudsman's decision, he will continue to perform his duties at the customs bureau, noting that under the Ombudsman Act (Republic Act 6770), any order imposing a penalty higher than a suspension of one month that is subject to an appeal, is not final and executory.

Varela also vehemently denied that he had caused the employment of his brother-in-law in the brokerage firm.

'Not fair'

"My brother-in-law has been in the freight business for about 12 years. He knows a lot of people from the shipping industry and he was hired without my recommendation," Varela said.

"It was not fair to deny him to pursue his only source of living just because he happened to be my brother-in-law," he said.

Varela said he and his family had long been traveling abroad for leisure at his own private time and expense. He said that as a former country manager of a large freight-forwarding company, he had earned enough to be able to afford to take his family on foreign holidays.

He said there were people who were trying to discredit him because of the war that he has been waging against smugglers and perpetrators of tax credit scams. He said he was instrumental in the discovery of the irregular grant of tax credits, such as the highly publicized Chingkoc case.

Last month, Amatong ordered the justice department's antigraft team to investigate the BOC's alleged bungling of the prosecution of tax fraud cases leading to their dismissal by the courts.

Finance Undersecretary Emmanuel Bonoan, the head of the Revenue Integrity Protection Service (RIPS) which was created to conduct lifestyle checks on BOC and BIR officials, said Valera would be one of those to be investigated for the alleged bungling of the tax fraud cases.

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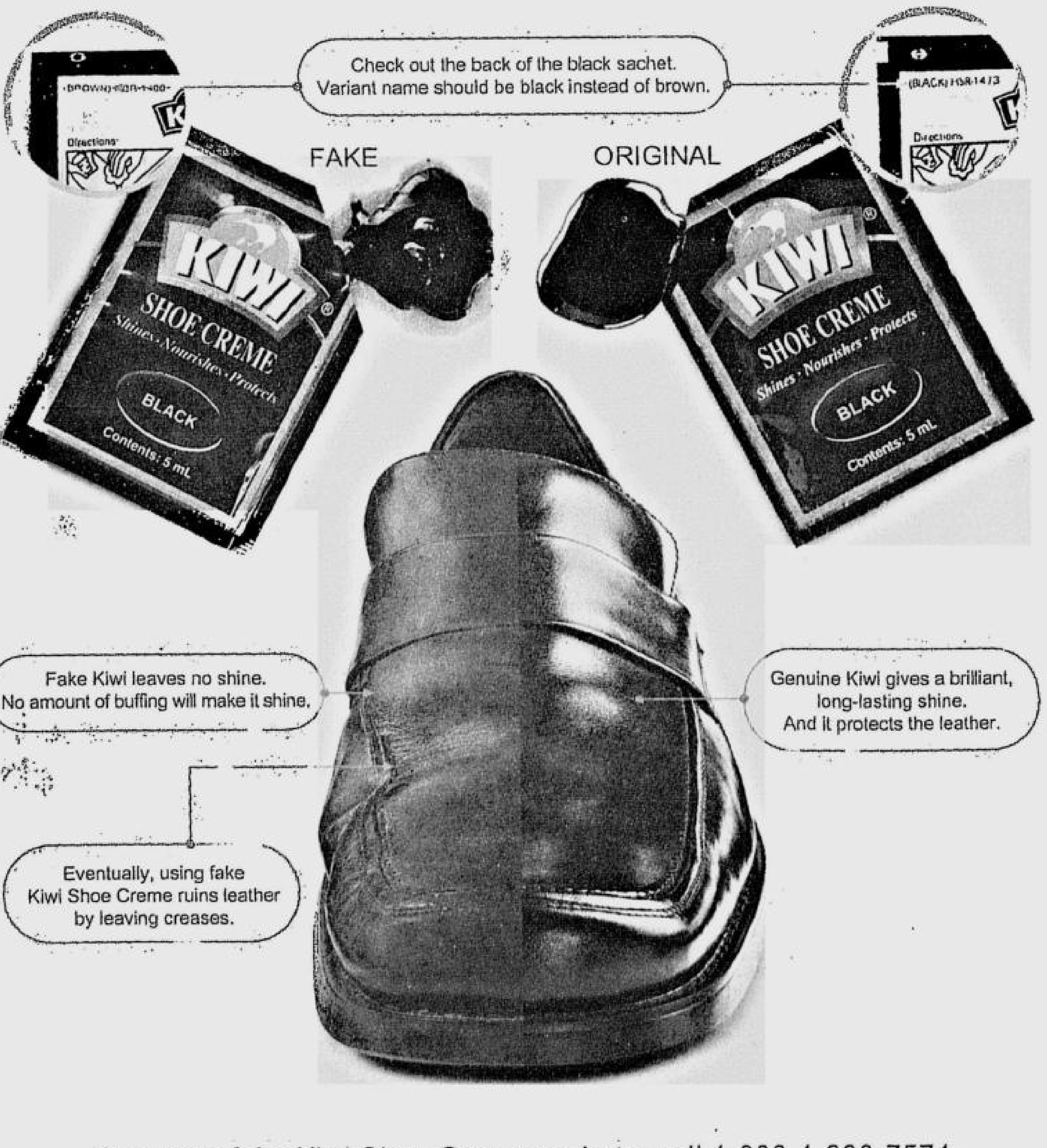

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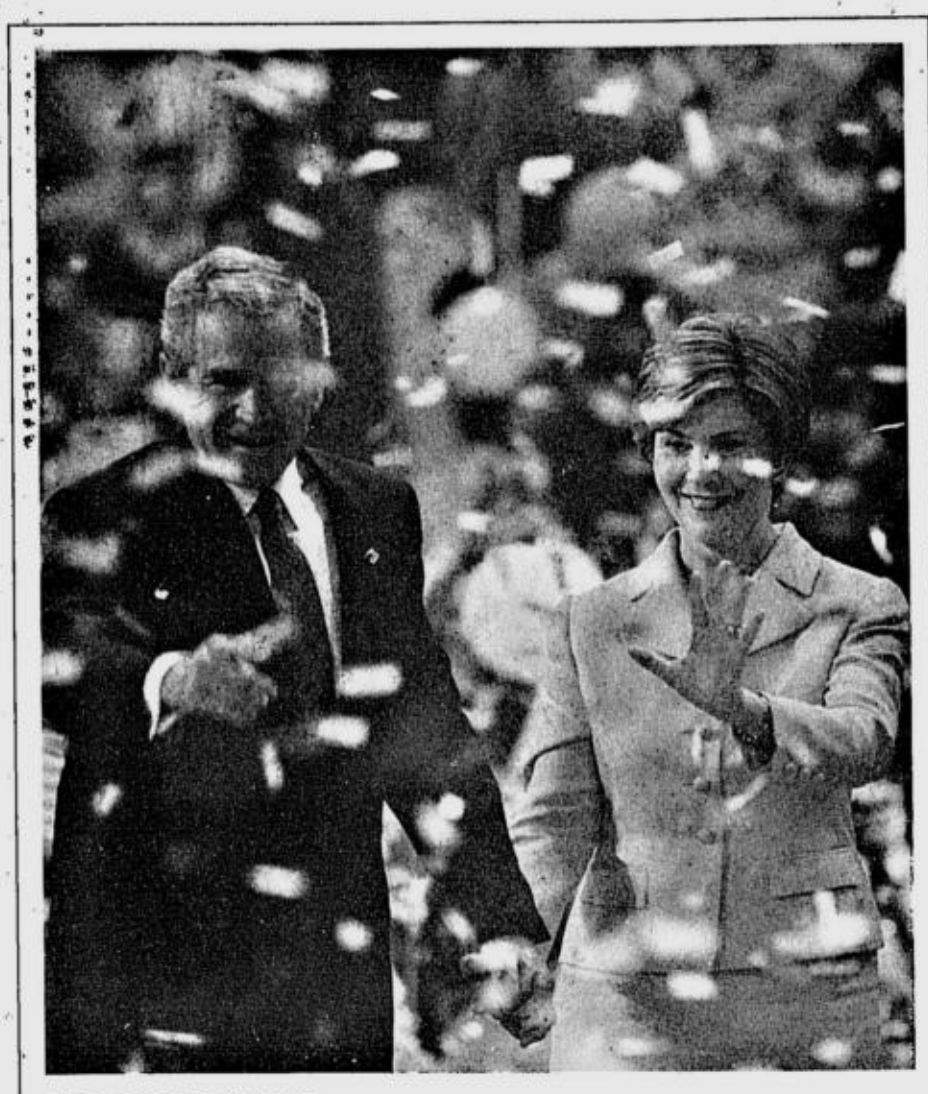


SECOND TERM BID
US President George W. Bush (left) is joined on stage by his wife Laura after speaking at the Republican National Convention at Madison Square Garden in New York City Sept. 2. Bush formally accepted his party's nomination for a second term in office. *(Story on Page 1)* AFP

Israel threatens Syria strike after bombings

JERUSALEM—Israel threatened Thursday to launch a military attack on Syria, accusing Damascus of being directly implicated in a double Hamas suicide attack that killed 16 people.

As Israel's top diplomats pressed their case that Damascus should pay the price for sheltering Hamas leaders, Deputy Defense Minister Zeev Boim dropped strong hints that a strike on Syrian targets could be imminent.

Syria dismissed the threat as lacking in credibility and denied any involvement in the bombings.

Boim told public radio: "The rule that 'anyone who deals in terror against Israel is a target' is a rule that must be stated and one that we must stand behind."

He added that Israel would take care not to cause a "conflagration" on its northern border.

"It is possible to launch operations, provided that the targets are well chosen and that the moment is right, in order to make the Syrians understand that there are red lines that cannot be crossed," he added.

Foreign Minister Silvan Shalom had earlier said Syria "is responsible for terrorist acts against us because this country is home of the headquarters of terrorist organizations and orders to carry out these attacks are given in Damascus."

Syria "must understand that this policy will have clear consequences... If we believe that Damascus has crossed a red line we will act," he added.

Sixteen people and the two bombers were killed on Tuesday in a double suicide attack in the southern Israeli city of Beersheba.

Responsibility for the attack was claimed by the radical Islamist movement Hamas whose senior leader, Khaled Meshaal, is based in Damascus.

Prime Minister Ariel Sharon's official spokesperson, Raanan Gissin, said "the order for the terrorist attacks comes directly from Khaled Meshaal's bureau based in Damascus."

But Syrian Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shara denied any link to the Beersheba attacks.

"The Israeli threats against Syria are not based on any evidence and are completely lacking in credibility," he said in comments carried by the official Sana news agency.

"(Such menaces) raise tensions in the region," Shara said.

The attacks in Beersheba were the deadliest since a suicide bombing in the port city of Haifa last October, which left 21 people and the female bomber dead, and they followed a period of relative calm.

Israel responded to that attack, carried out by the smaller Islamic Jihad organization, with an air strike on an alleged Palestinian militant training camp deep inside Syria.

Meshaal was the target of a failed assassination bid by Israeli agents in Jordan in 1997. He emerged as undisputed leader earlier this year after Hamas cofounder Sheikh Ahmed Yassin and his successor, Abdelaziz Rantissi, were both killed in Israeli air strikes.

As well as the threats of military action, Israeli diplomats are stepping up their efforts to convince other governments of Damascus' ties to Hamas.

Danny Ayalon, Israel's ambassador to the United States, is to present Bush administration officials with intelligence information on the links. Shalom was expected to press the same message at talks with Dutch Foreign Minister Bernard Bot, whose country holds the rotating EU presidency.

While officials were setting their sights on Damascus, the Army also launched attacks in Hamas' traditional Gaza Strip stronghold.

Four Palestinian teenagers were shot dead during an incursion in the central Gaza Strip town of Deir al-Balah. *AFP*

Hopes mount French hostages in Iraq will be freed

BAGHDAD—Hopes mounted Thursday that two French journalists held hostage by Islamic militants in Iraq would be freed after France declared them safe and well and no longer in the hands of their original abductors.

At the end of a day of swirling rumors of their impending release, French Culture Minister Renaud Donnedieu de Vabres said that "we know they are alive and no longer in the hands of the abductors who had held them."

"I hope that we will, perhaps this night, tomorrow or in the next few hours be able once and for all to turn the page on this tragic event while remaining vigilant," he added.

He warned, however, that "our two compatriots are not in complete security with French forces."

Earlier, Interior Minister Dominique de Villepin had also sounded positive when he was interviewed on France 2 public television.

"I believe we can hope for a happy end," he said. "The indications that we have this evening are going in the right direction.

The journalists, Christian Chesnot and Georges Malbrunot, were kidnapped by the self-styled Islamic Army in Iraq on Aug. 20 along with their driver.

The group issued a demand that France repeal a controversial law that bans the wearing of the Islamic headscarf in French state schools. *AFP*

US Marine found guilty of abusing Iraq inmates

CAMP PENDLETON, California—A Marine reservist was found guilty Thursday of dereliction of duty and the abuse of prisoners last year at a makeshift detention camp in Iraq, but cleared of assaulting a 52-year-old Iraqi man who later died there.

Marine Sgt. Gary Pittman's wife cried as the military jury's verdict was read following four hours of deliberation. Pittman, wearing a khaki-and-green uniform adorned with his service ribbons, stood without reaction.

Pittman, 40, a federal prison guard in New York in his civilian life, was acquitted of the most serious charge, of karate-kicking 52-year-old Nagem Hatab in the chest shortly before the Iraqi was found dead in a dusty yard at the facility known as Camp Whitehorse.

An autopsy found Hatab had six broken ribs, as well as several deep bruises, and apparently died from suffocation caused by a broken bone in his throat.

Pittman embraced his wife and defense attorney before leaving the courtroom accompanied by his brother, an Army major. He didn't stop to speak with reporters.

The jury was to begin sentencing deliberations on Friday. Pittman could receive up nine months in a military prison and a bad-conduct discharge.

Pittman took the stand Wednesday and testified that he never assaulted a prisoner. He was one of the only witnesses to say that he saw no abuse at Camp Whitehorse. *AP*

WORLDBRIEFS

Hurricane 'Frances'

MIAMI—Florida authorities Thursday told 2.5 million people to evacuate their homes as Hurricane "Frances," a huge and fierce storm that pummeled the Bahamas, barreled toward the eastern US coast. "We need to take this seriously, this is a deadly storm" said Florida Gov. Jeb Bush, urging residents in threatened areas to board up their homes and seek shelter inland. Most of Florida's densely populated east coast was placed under a hurricane warning, which means the storm could slam within 24 hours into the state that is still recovering from the devastation of Hurricane "Charley" earlier this month. About 2.5 million people along south Florida's Atlantic coast were told to evacuate their homes and move to safer areas as Frances approached with sustained winds of 205 km per hour and higher gusts. *AFP*

Milosevic trial

THE HAGUE—Judges at the UN war crimes tribunal on Thursday ordered ex-Yugoslav president Slobodan Milosevic to take on defense counsel in a bid to speed up a trial dogged by delays caused by his failing health. "It is plain from medical reports that the accused is not fit enough to represent himself and if he continues to do so it would cause further delays," presiding judge Patrick Robinson said. The court in The Hague ruled that it would be "in the interest of justice" to force Milosevic, who has been acting as his own lawyer since the trial began in February 2002, to be assigned a defense counsel. Milosevic angrily rejected the judges' decision, saying "I believe that the assignment of counsel directly violates my fundamental rights." *AFP*

Assassin weds

JERUSALEM—Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin's assassin married secretly, in an absentee ceremony, the inmate's mother said Friday, eight months after Israeli authorities turned down a request for a jailhouse wedding. Geula Amir said her son, Yigal, married Larisa Trimbobler, a divorced mother of four, two weeks ago. The ceremony was performed by a rabbi at the Amir home in the coastal resort of Herzliya, with Trimbobler and two witnesses attending, and Amir locked in his cell. Amir is serving a life sentence in Ayalon Prison in central Israel for the 1995 killing of Rabin. Amir, an ultranationalist Jew, has said he wanted to stop the handover of land in Israeli-Palestinian peace deals and has shown no regret. The assassination was a major blow to peace efforts. *AP*

Tense Katmandu

KATMANDU—Nepalese authorities briefly lifted a curfew early Friday to let people carry out essential tasks after a quiet night following riots that left two dead. But there was no sign of an end to the restriction imposed on the capital Wednesday to halt violence sparked by the murder of 12 Nepalese hostages in Iraq. State-run radio announced the home ministry had relaxed the curfew for three and a half hours from 6 a.m. But the chief administrators of Katmandu and nearby Lalitpur districts said it would be reimposed until further notice to maintain law and order. *AFP*

China workplaces still 'very dangerous'

BEIJING—China, fast becoming the factory of the world, remains a highly dangerous place to work and it must do more to reduce deaths and injuries, a top International Labor Organization expert said.

While the government has made efforts in recent years to improve workplace safety, they were not keeping pace with China's rapid industrialization, Tsuyoshi Kawakami, an ILO occupational safety and health specialist, said.

The situation in China's factories and other work places remains "serious," said Kawakami, who is in Beijing for the Second China International Forum on Work Safety, co-sponsored by the ILO and China's State Administration of Work Safety.

"Reported accidents and fatalities are on a decreasing trend... but still many accidents in small enterprises may not be reported to the government," he said on the sidelines of the forum that ends Saturday.

"Very big accidents are improving little by little, but we need to pay attention to small enterprises."

More than 7,300 workers were killed in China in the first half of the year in accidents involving mining, heavy industry and other trades, a more than seven percent drop compared with last year's 7,923 fatalities.

Mining deaths accounted for 3,758 of those killed.

The real figures are believed to be far higher as many cases go unreported.

Kawakami cited as an example the mining industry, where safety in big mines was improving but small mines were "still very risky."

China has passed safety laws and punished local government officials and company managers for not enforcing rules following major accidents, but Kawakami said it was just as important to raise public awareness so workers could protect themselves.

"In small enterprises, owners, managers and workers are eager to learn safety procedures. We should give them very practical applications instead of just mentioning there is a law and you should follow it," he said.

Managers also must be convinced that improving safety means increased productivity and profits, he said.

"Many managers think safety and health improvement is very expensive but actually it doesn't cost much," Kawakami said.

He has noticed numerous problems in China that could be easily fixed, such as:

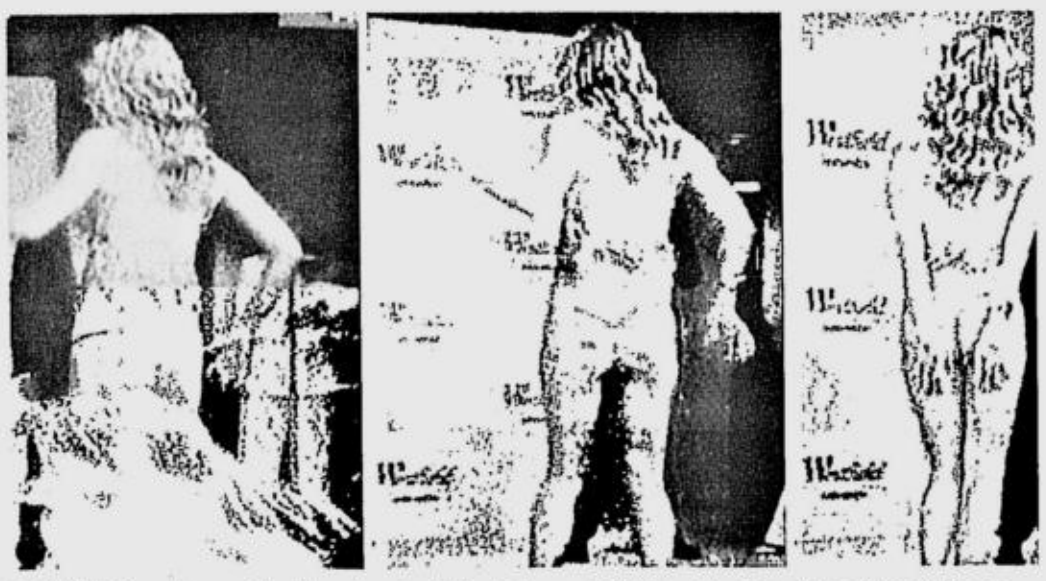
- Blocked passageways where workers can easily trip and fall.
- Materials carried by hand instead of push carts, which are not only safer but allow more goods to be moved.
- Chemical containers left uncovered instead of placed in storage areas, raising the risks of smoking workers igniting them and causing a fire.
- Lack of guards blocking rotating parts of machines to prevent hair and extremities getting caught.
- Lack of Chinese language instructions on imported machines; workers know only how to turn them on and off, but not how to avoid misuse.

While China bans independent workers' unions, Kawakami said workplace safety issues were not political at the grassroots level.

"The management side can accept practical, simple, easy to implement measures," he said, and urged the government to educate managers and workers, especially as the country now produces much of the world's products.

"China's improving safety and health can have a great impact on the rest of the world," said Kawakami.

Priority should be placed on the mining, construction and chemical industries, where most of the accidents occur, according to the ILO. *AFP*



TV FRAME grab combination showing Miss Universe 2004 Jennifer Hawkins of Australia as she hurries off the catwalk after unintentionally revealing her G-string during a fashion show in Sydney, Sept. 2. AFP

HAWKINS in more formal wear. AFP

Miss Universe does a Janet Jackson in 'wardrobe malfunction'

SYDNEY—A "wardrobe malfunction" of Janet Jackson proportions left 2004 Miss Universe Jennifer Hawkins wearing little more than a red G-string after half her gold dress dropped to the floor during a Sydney fashion show.

The 20-year-old former rugby cheerleader was modelling the seven-kilogram metallic lace dress at a fashion show for Westfield's shopping centers Thursday when the bottom half snagged on her high heels and fell to the catwalk.

Showing the composure which helped her win the Miss Universe crown in June, Hawkins simply turned on her heels and sauntered back-stage to camera flashes and a few gasps from the audience.

Hawkins recently returned to Australia for the first time since winning the Miss Universe pageant and she was wearing the same lavish evening dress designed for the pageant.

Thursday's mishap was reminiscent of an incident at the American football Superbowl in February when superstar Janet Jackson famously bared a breast during the half-time show.

Managers initially claimed there had been a "wardrobe malfunction," but the singer later apologized for having inserted the "costume reveal" into her show without warning sponsors or the television network which broadcast the performance live. *AFP*

Mahathir on Anwar: I made a PM's decision

PUTRAJAYA—Tun Dr. Mahathir Mohamad said he was not going to lose sleep over the acquittal of Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim because he is convinced he made the right decision to remove the former deputy prime minister.

"I am still convinced that I did the right thing. What I assumed he did, I believe he did and as we can see even judges have different opinions.

"I am entitled to my opinion and entitled to take whatever action based on my own opinion," he told reporters at his Petronas Towers office here yesterday.

Saying he was mildly surprised with the decision, the former prime minister said despite the legal finding, he acted in good faith because he believed that Anwar was guilty.

"In this case, as prime minister, I don't have to wait until there is no reasonable doubt. I have every right to dismiss anybody on mere suspicion."

Asked whether it was difficult for him to accept the decision, Dr. Mahathir said it was not a unanimous decision. *Asia News Network*

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School stormed by Russian troops, 100 dead

From page A1

said the hostage-takers had demanded that Russian troops leave Chechnya—the first clear indication of their demands and of a direct link between Wednesday's attack in the region of North Ossetia and the ongoing war in the neighboring region.

Chaotic scene

In a chaotic scene around the school, hundreds of people ran through the streets, columns of smoke soared overhead and the cries of children—many of them naked—and the wounded filled the air. An Associated Press reporter saw ambulances speeding by; the windows streaked with blood.

Commandos, residents and journalists scurried around the burning brick school. Some camouflage-clad soldiers climbed inside through a lower floor window, all the glass missing. The militants had broken most of the windows earlier in what might have been an effort to prevent authorities from using a knockout gas against them.

Part of the building's roof had collapsed—apparently killing many of the hostages and leaving a jagged opening to the sky, Interfax said.

More than 400 others, hostages and local residents, were injured in the chaos, reports said. A cameraman for private British television ITN reported catching a glimpse of some 100 bodies inside the gymnasium.

A regional health ministry spokesperson said there were 376 wounded in hospitals in Beslan and the regional capital Vladikavkaz, including 101 children. A hospital chief said 69 children were admitted to one hospital, five in grave condition, the head of the hospital said.

At a hospital about a mile from the school, anguished crowds mobbed arriving ambulances in a desperate bid to see who was inside.

Under an adjacent grove of pine and spruce trees, some two dozen children lay on bloodied stretchers. Parents and relatives hugged and kissed them, giving them water.

One weeping man led away a young boy muddied, bleeding and only wearing underpants.

Smell of gunpowder

The smell of gunpowder lingered heavily in the air around the school.

A nurse spreading sheets on stretchers told The Associated Press that Russian officials expected "very many" wounded, and it was still unclear how many people had been taken hostage—with estimates ranging from hundreds up to 1,500.

The commandos stormed the big brick school on the third day of the hostage crisis, moving in after about 30 women and children broke out of the building, some bloodied and screaming.

It was not immediately clear what led to the events Friday. Early reports suggested the militants had agreed to let Russia retrieve the bodies of 10 to 20 hostages who had been killed. A local legislator, Azamat Kadykov, had told the hostages' relatives that 20 adult men had been executed.

Emergency personnel went to get the bodies, and the militants began setting off bombs and opening fire on people around the school, ITAR-Tass said. Some 30 women and children broke out of the building, some bloodied and screaming, and commandos then launched the assault.

Interfax said militants fired at children who ran from the building, and unconfirmed reports said some of the hostage-takers, possibly including women bearing suicide belts, may have taken hostages with them.

Women escaping the building were seen fainting and others, some covered in blood, were carried away on stretchers. Many children were only partly clothed because of the stifling heat in the gym where they had been held since the militants took the building some 52 hours earlier.

Interfax said the school's roof had collapsed—possibly from the explosives some militants had strapped to their bodies. The militants had reportedly threatened to blow up the building if authorities tried to storm.

The militants had freed about 26 women and children on Thursday, and Russian officials and others had been in on-and-off negotiations with the hostage-takers, but with few signs of progress toward a resolution.

Conflicting reports

There were conflicting reports of the number of hostages, with official saying about 350 and people among a small group freed on Wednesday saying there were about 1,500.

President Vladimir Putin said Thursday that everything possible would be done to end the "horrible" crisis and save the lives of the children and other hostages—a task he stressed was all-important, indicating care would be taken to avoid casualties in efforts to free them.

Two major hostage-taking raids by Chechen rebels outside the war-torn region in the past decade prompted forceful Russian rescue operations that led to many deaths. The seizure of a Moscow theater in 2002 ended after a knockout gas was pumped into the building, debilitating the captors but causing almost all of the 129 hostage deaths.

The hostage-takers at the theater had called for Russia to withdraw its troops from Chechnya, where tens of thousands of federal forces have been fighting against rebels for nearly five years in the second of two wars in the mostly Muslim region in a decade. *AP*

Now, it's called the 'Bayanihan Fund' as donations pour in

From page A1

parency and proper accounting of the fund."

But two congressmen said at a media forum held by the Freedom from Debt Coalition that lawmakers should have some control over the donations. They also said the touted funds would not address the country's true problems.

While saying that the funds being raised from philanthropists was unlikely to make a dent on the Philippines' fiscal problems, Albay Rep. Edcel Lagman said Congress could not just let the executive branch decide by itself how the money would be used.

According to Lagman, "safeguards" by way of an enabling law should be in place before the collected amount is spent.

Otherwise, the donations might just go the way of the infamous "behest loans" of the Marcos dictatorship, he said, referring to the huge debts that later became the subject of court cases questioning whether the money actually benefited the people.

Sorsogon Rep. Francis Escudero wondered aloud whether the fund-raising drives being led by key administration figures like Speaker Jose de Venecia and Philippine National Police chief Edgardo Aglipay were "part of their job description."

Escudero demanded to know what were the "legal basis," "processes" and "guidelines" for eventually allocating the collection.

Without congressional scrutiny, he said, the raised sum might be labeled government funds yet be "no different from the Erap Muslim Youth Foundation," the controversial foundation put up by deposed President Joseph Estrada.

P350M in pledges

The President had earlier asked Finance Secretary Juanita Amatong to collect from the business tycoons and wealthy lawmakers who accompanied her in her state visit to China, and to issue them receipts.

De Venecia reportedly raised P350 million in pledges from Ms Arroyo and her official and business delegation while they were on the plane to Beijing on Thursday.

The President, her husband Jose Miguel Arroyo, and her brother-in-law Rep. Ignacio Arroyo pledged P1 million each. Taipans Lucio Tan and Jimmy Tang pledged P2 million apiece, while the Coalition 100, a group of business leaders, promised to raise P100 million.

A number of congressmen had also promised to donate a month's pay to the government.

"I am thankful for the *bayanihan* spirit that has infused the sense of sacrifice and generosity of our people," the President said in her statement.

"We shall combine the renewed surge of business confidence, an aggressive push for investments, diplomatic offensives and good governance to bear upon the crisis—even as we share the greater sacrifices in the months to come," she said, adding:

"We can turn this into hope, and hope into triumph for every Filipino, rich or poor, in a brighter future."

But Bunye reminded lawmakers that despite the donations and the instituted austerity measures, the government needed to collect additional taxes to cover the budget deficit and finance the President's programs.

"The solution to our problem is a combination of cost-cutting or austerity and new revenue measures, and our fight against corruption and tax cheats. All of these taken together will be the solution," he said.

The President wants Congress to pass eight new taxes to raise P80 billion.

Not the solution

Lagman warned the public from being overly impressed with the outpouring of donations being reported by De Venecia.

"There's nothing basically wrong with donations," he said. "But this should not be used to mislead the people into thinking that it's enough to address the true causes of our problems—debt service and overpopulation."

Told that his negative remark might serve to discourage potential donors, Lagman replied: "I'm just telling the truth. This is not a substantial solution to the deficit."

Escudero aired a similar view.

"*Magandang pakinggan* (It makes for good news)," he said of the donations. "But it's not the solution to a problem caused by corruption and poor tax collection."

Lagman also argued that under the Constitution, revenues aside from those obtained through taxes and other regular sources were "subject to appropriation by Congress."

Money donated to the government becomes "imbued with public interest and therefore should be remitted to the national treasury," he said.

"Congress should watch how these donations will be spent," he added.

Lagman also warned the government against using the fund or a portion of it to debt service, pointing out that it was put up by De Venecia exclusively for basic services.

The Speaker had said the fund, to which he had donated P1 million and which he expected to reach P5 billion, would be used for the construction of 20,000 classrooms and the purchase of 20,000 computers for public school students nationwide.

Mayors, too

Taking a cue from his former colleagues in the House, Caloocan Mayor Enrico Echiverri called on his fellow mayors to donate a month's salary to the national government.

Echiverri, who had earlier rejected the proposal to cut the internal revenue allotment (IRA) for local governments, said salaries were personal funds, unlike the IRA that, he pointed out, was already allotted to local services and projects.

Metro Manila mayors should "lead the sacrifice," he said in a phone interview.

City mayors each receive a monthly salary ranging from P25,000 to P29,000, and municipal mayors, between P16,000 and 20,000.

Echiverri said the amount to be raised under his proposal would be much bigger should governors, vice governors and even councilors also donate their salaries.

The reactions to his call were varied.

Malabon Mayor Canuto Oreta said he would have no problem making the donation.

But Navotas Mayor Toby Tiangco said he had been using his monthly pay to provide burial or medical support to his constituents. *With reports from Christine O. Avendaño, Cynthia D. Balana and Edson Castro Tandoc Jr. in Manila; Jhunnex Napallacan, PDI Visayas Bureau*

GMA in 7th heaven, thanks China for $1B in investments, loans

From page A1

year, is expected to provide 3,000 jobs and revive the old iron mines in the province.

At the signing ceremonies, the Hebei Medical University-Bio Medical Engineering Center also committed to provide a $25-million credit facility to the Philippine International Trading Corp. for the purchase of medicine.

"I thank China for its support to my 10-point legacy. I can feel that the Philippines is very important to China," an exuberant Ms Arroyo told the Filipino community at the Kerry Centre Hotel on the eve of her departure.

$20 billion trade

Ms Arroyo said one of her goals was to expand trade with China to $20 billion in the next five years. There is also need to establish more economic zones as the Philippines transits into a federal-parliamentary system, she said.

Speaking to the Filipino community, Ms Arroyo said a Chinese company, Premiumware, had committed to finance the development of a fish processing facility on Palawan.

"[I'm] in seventh heaven because we just got a commitment from Premiumware that they will spend about $33 million for fish processing facilities in Palawan," she said.

The other agreements involved a contract between Multi-media Telephony Inc. and Huawei Technologies Co. Ltd for the supply of $100 million worth of mobile high-speed data services, and a contract for the purchase of 100 China-made buses running on compressed natural gas, worth $8 million.

The fifth was a technical cooperation agreement for the trial planting of Chinese hybrid corn seeds and the installation of a corn research station in the Philippines, all amounting to $100 million.

Major breakthroughs

"All of these are part of fulfilling her 10-point agenda for the next six years," Energy Secretary Vincent Perez told reporters. "It's an extremely successful trip with some major breakthroughs in the diplomatic front."

Sergio Ortiz-Luis Jr., chair of the Philippine Chamber of Commerce and Industry, who was part of the 105-member delegation, described the visit as very successful.

"The value of the contracts was substantial, plus the other agreements that are brewing, which were not signed," he said in an interview.

China's Hebei Jingniu Group Co. Ltd also committed to invest some $312 million for the construction of an integrated glass manufacturing facility at the Bataan Technology Park in Bataan, officials said.

The plant is expected to provide 15,000 jobs once it becomes operational late next year.

Decongesting Manila

The Philippine National Oil Corp. also hammered out an agreement with the Harbin Power to construct a $50-million coal power plant, according to Perez.

Earlier, China pledged to infuse some $400 million for the construction of phase 1 of the North Railway project, which runs from Caloocan through Malolos, Bulacan to Clark, Pampanga.

"The Northrail project will help ease the decongestion of Metro Manila, and develop Clark-Subic as logistics hub," Perez said.

All the investments and loans amount to $992 million, officials said.

Other contracts that were proposed for signing.

These involved the the supply of 70 containers of coco coir, geotextile, coco log and coco mat worth $1 million to China, the supply of 4,800 metric tons of coconut-based alkyd resin ($5.16 million), and the supply of 3,600 metric tons of coco fiber ($720,000).

When asked how soon the agreements would be implemented, Perez said: "I anticipate that there will be intensified efforts in the next 12 months to bring into fruition all the investment needs that were created today."

"I anticipate several delegations from both sides visiting Beijing and Manila over the coming months," he added.

Chinese president

President Hu Jintao has accepted Ms Arroyo's invitation to visit the country in June next year in time for the 30th anniversary of Philippine-Sino diplomatic relations.

In a joint statement, the leaders of both countries agreed to promote the expansion of bilateral trade, improvement of the trade structure and development of potentials in trade and services.

"They agreed to encourage entrepreneurs to invest in each other's countries, particularly in the fields of infrastructure, agriculture, resources, information and communications, among others," the statement said.

On the sidelines of the visit, Ms Arroyo met with Thailand's Prime Minister Thaksin Shinawatra at the State Guest House in Beijing before noon yesterday.

During the meeting, Shinawatra donated $40,000 for the flood victims in typhoon-battered Central Luzon.

Ms Arroyo said Manila's growing trade with Beijing was about to breach the $14 billion mark this year, much higher than the projected $10 billion.

South China Sea

"So now we have a new goal: $20 billion in the next five years," she added in her address at the Kerry Centre Hotel.

"And the trade surplus is very much in favor of the Philippines. We want to expand this trade," she said.

Ms Arroyo said the proposed North Railway project would "contribute to the decongestion of Metro Manila and the transformation of Subic-Clark into the best hub in the Southeast Asian region."

Palace turns off aircon in the name of austerity

From page A1

from 4 p.m. to 7 a.m., but only in three buildings: Mabini and Kalayaan Halls and the Tahanan ng Masa, according to Press Secretary Ignacio Bunye.

However, there will be uninterrupted air-conditioning and all lights will be turned on in the main Palace, which serves as Office of the President and official residence of the First Family, as well as the Presidential Guesthouse which serves as office of the Executive Secretary.

Still invoking the name of austerity, the National Bureau of Investigation will no longer allow its employees to come to work early or work overtime, according to NBI director Reynaldo Wycoco. Because the lights, air-conditioning units and other facilities are turned on for a longer period of time, thereby increasing the bureau's utility bills.

Only in 3 buildings

Limiting the air-conditioning in Malacañang's three buildings was recommended by Senior Deputy Executive Secretary Waldo Flores to Executive Secretary Eduardo Ermita.

Mabini Hall houses the administration office of the Office of the President, including its records, accounting, engineering, budget and correspondence sections.

The Tahanan ng Masa is where the President's Action Center, Malacañang Post Office and document authentication centers are located.

Media feel the heat

Kalayaan Hall is where the Press Working Area for more than 60 print, television and radio reporters covering the Palace beat is located, as well as the Briefing Room where Bunye and sometimes the President and other members of the Cabinet hold their press briefings.

Aside from the PWA, the offices of Press Undersecretary Isabel de Leon and presidential adviser on provincial events Conrado Limcaoco are also in the Kalayaan.

The president earlier called on all government agencies to practice energy-saving and cost-efficient programs to save money and thus, help address the threat of a fiscal crisis brought about by the budget deficit.

Ms Arroyo also issued Administrative Order No. 103 prescribing a general austerity program for the government. It includes a mandatory 10-percent reduction in fuel and electricity consumption in all government offices.

The government spends P2 billion on fuel and another P2 billion on electricity every year.

Flexi-time scrapped

The NBI's energy-saving program entails giving up its flexi-time system, overtime pay, sports festivals, seminars and out-of-town and out-of-the-country trips.

Wycoco said the measures would be implemented this month in all bureau offices throughout the country.

"We hope to cut electricity, water and telephone bills and other kinds of expenses, especially now that Malacañang has issued a directive to all government agencies to practice austerity measures," Wycoco told reporters.

He added that he would not require the bureau's employees to donate all or part of their salaries to the government, like what is being done by the police. But he said NBI employees are welcome to do so if they wish.

One of the first programs to be implemented at the NBI is the suspension of the flexi-time system, which allows its employees to report for work at different times as long as they are on duty for nine straight hours.

8 to 5 at NBI

Under this system, employees could report for work as early as 7 a.m. and could leave as late as 6 p.m. The lights, air-conditioning units and other facilities are turned on for a longer period of time, thereby increasing the bureau's utility bills.

Now, all NBI employees must work from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. only, and are required to turn off air-conditioning units at 4 p.m to take advantage of the cooler afternoon air during the remaining hours of work.

Employees are also prohibited from working overtime so the bureau could save on overtime pay.

However, duty agents on the night or graveyard shift are still required to report for work since they are part of the 24-hour staff at the NBI.

Wycoco also said they won't be holding sports festivals anymore because the opening ceremonies, the sports uniforms and other equipment would cost money. The bureau would also be regulating the use of its gym to save on utility bills.

Seminars and out of town or out of the country travels would also be prohibited to save on costs.

Palace defends inclusion of GMA kin, nannies in China visit

By Gil C. Cabacungan, Jr.

TOP aides of President Macapagal-Arroyo on Friday brushed aside criticism that her state visit to China has turned into a family vacation amid the country's financial troubles, and urged Filipinos to consider benefits of improved trade ties with Beijing.

Press Secretary Ignacio Bunye said it was unfortunate that the supposed "Arroyo family vacation" has overshadowed the benefits of the President's first state visit in her new term.

"Right now we have forgotten the benefits of the agreements that the President would bring back from her trip," said Bunye citing deals on the North Rail project, joint oil exploration of the Spratlys island, tourism and fisheries.

"Our appeal is don't make the issue any bigger and instead focus on the positive results of the President's visit," said Bunye in a radio interview.

Bunye admitted that President Arroyo herself made the decision to add her grandchildren and their nannies in her entourage. "What we would like to emphasize is that the government did not spend for their expenses in this trip," Bunye said.

Bunye said the government did not spend a centavo for the expenses of President Arroyo and 15 other members of her official delegation which includes her husband First Gentleman Jose Miguel Arroyo, her eldest son Rep. Juan Miguel M. Arroyo, and her brother-in-law Rep. Ignacio T. Arroyo.

"It is clear that if you are a member of the delegation, the government of China will pay for your expenses. If you are not a member, you pay for your own," said Bunye who has yet to deliver on his promise to come out with the cost of the state visit.

Bunye, however, did not mention that the members in the official delegation would get travel expenses and allowances including actual hotel room rate chargeable against funds of their respective offices based on a memorandum issued by Executive Secretary Eduardo Ermita.

Aside from the Presidential *apos*, Mikaela Gloria and Eva Victoria, other members of the First Family that joined the trip were the President's second son, Dato, and her daughters-in-law, daughters-in-law Angela and Kakai. Bunye reiterated that they shouldered their own expenses. The government's entourage also include 41 complementary staff from the Presidential Security Group and Office of the Press Secretary as well as crew of state-owned broadcast stations.

Just before the visit, Ms Arroyo, in a bid to keep a lid on government spending, signed an order banning all foreign travel except for ministerial meetings and trips funded by grants. Unnecessary domestic trips, gifts and donations, and most celebrations and sports activities in government offices were also forbidden.

The Philippines is struggling with a $60 billion foreign debt and a deficit target this year of P197.8 billion.

Presidential spokesman Ignacio Bunye said in radio interviews Friday that Arroyo's relatives paid their own way, and the government only paid for fares of the official delegation— the president, her husband, legislators and Cabinet and local officials. Beijing shouldered the delegates' expenses in China, he said.

Bunye said earlier that Arroyo's eldest son and her brother-in-law were part of the official delegation as members of the House of Representatives.

"Our appeal is for people not to make a big thing out of this and to look at the positive results of the trip of the president," he said. "We can see that if we talk about the economic and trade benefits and about improving relations between the Philippines and China, on the whole the state visit of our president has been very beneficial."

He noted the economic benefits of agreements with China, including a railway project linking Manila with northern provinces, a joint oil exploration agreement and agreements on tourism and fisheries.

However, radio station dzRB pointed out that critics were concerned about the show of extravagance amid calls for belt-tightening.

It reported Thursday that Ms Arroyo's family has pledged P3 million for a fund being raised by House Speaker Jose de Venecia to help plug the budget deficit. The report said Ms Arroyo, her husband and her brother-in-law would each shell out a third of the amount.

Ms Arroyo was expected to return to Manila late Friday. *With AP report*

Army officer hits 'twisted' promotion system at AFP

By Alcuin Papa

A SENIOR officer of the Armed Forces of the Philippines decried yesterday what he said was the "twisted manner" by which promotions are being done in the military after he was bypassed for promotion.

In a press conference at the Sulo Hotel in Quezon City, Lt. Col. Oscarlito Mapalo, deputy chief of the Army's Chemicals and Ordnance Section, cited his own case where he was not promoted to the rank of colonel despite his qualifications.

"There is much talk of modernizing the AFP, but soldiers do not only need a modern arsenal of weapons but, more urgently, the soldiers need reform and rectification of the very causes that inflict injury to the morale of soldiers. Many of these reforms require resources to change or improve, but there are those reforms that don't require funds—such as reform of the promotions systems to professionalize and depoliticize it," he said reading from a prepared statement.

Mapalo, 48 and a member of the Philippine Military Academy Class of 1979, said that the Philippine Army Board of Senior Officers did not include his name for promotion to the rank of full colonel last year. The Pabso had written to Mapalo saying that its evaluation revealed that "there are officers more junior to you but are more qualified in terms of merits as evaluated based on their qualitative and quantitative ratings."

He said he wrote to the board to reevaluate his case but said he was given the run around until he filed a case of falsification of documents before the Ombudsman against members of the Pabso led by Lt. Gen. Efren Abu, then vice commander of the Philippine Army. Mapalo claimed the Pabso officers falsified information in the documents he submitted to the board.

In turn, Abu and the other officers filed counter charges of grave misconduct and malicious prosecution.

How to tap the youth a challenge to gov'ts

FINDING ways to fire up today's youth and being able to tap their energies to make societies progress is one of the greatest challenges before governments today, Singaporean minister Vivian Balakrishnan, said at a forum in Singapore yesterday.

Young Leaders led the fight decades ago as Singapore gained independence and took critical decisions that gave the city-state its modern, cosmopolitan thrust.

But that has led to a "happy state where in a sense, the youth don't have a huge cause of epic proportions to fight for," said Dr. Balakrishnan who is the Acting Minister for Community Development, Youth and Sports and Senior Minister of State (Trade and Industry).

This was a "dangerous' state, he said, for the youth could then decide that since there is nothing big to fight for they can just focus on very "narrow issues, which in a capitalist system will simply mean aggrandising wealth for themselves."

Asian personalities from different spheres are participating in the two-day Young Leaders forum hosted by the Asia News Network and the Konrad Adenauer Foundation.

The ANN is a group of 14 leading newspapers in the region with a combined readership of about 50 million.

Its members include the China Daily, Yomiuri Shimbun of Japan, The Statesman of India, The Star and Sin Chew Daily of Malaysia, The Nation of Thailand, The Jakarta Post of Indonesia and the Philippine Daily Inquirer, among others.

The Philippine delegates to the Young Leaders Meet are Benjamin Abadiano, 2004 Ramon Magsaysay awardee for Emergent Leadership and Kenneth Cobonpue, one of the Ten Outstanding Young Men awardee for 2003.

Dr. Balakrishnan said the challenge today is to reach out to the youth and explain to them "why we are the way we are now because of our path and what this trajectory will mean for the future."

In Singapore's case, he said, the government's efforts to teach them a global language—English—in an educational system that is universally recognized and giving them assets has created a mobile, young force with "wings to fly."

The need now is to remind the youth of their obligations but, he said, appealing to the current generation will not be easy.

Giving the youth a house, water etc "does not turn them on," he said.

"We need to find a way to tell our young, that there are even more opportunities.. they can use this place as a launch pad, to bring up family, to park their assets, to invest in.

"A new political contract needs to be established between the people and the political system," Dr. Balakrishnan said.

Other speakers at the forum included former Malaysian deputy prime minister and chairman of Kumpulan Guthrie Berhad, Tan Sri Musa Hitam and Prof Ang Peng Hwa from the Nanyang Technological University.

Guest speaker Tan Sri Musa said the next 10 years would see the rise of China and India as epicenters of economic growth.

"China will, by the end of the decade, come out tops demonstrating that a disciplined form of government with democracy gradually infused, works."

He also warned that the experiments in Asia with "loosening up"—if not accompanied by economic prosperity—could see the emergence of "politics of fear."

"Issues relating to ethnicity, religion and identity would be exploited which would bring nothing disorder and chaos."

The forum continues today with sessions on the economic and cultural future of the region. *Asia News Network*

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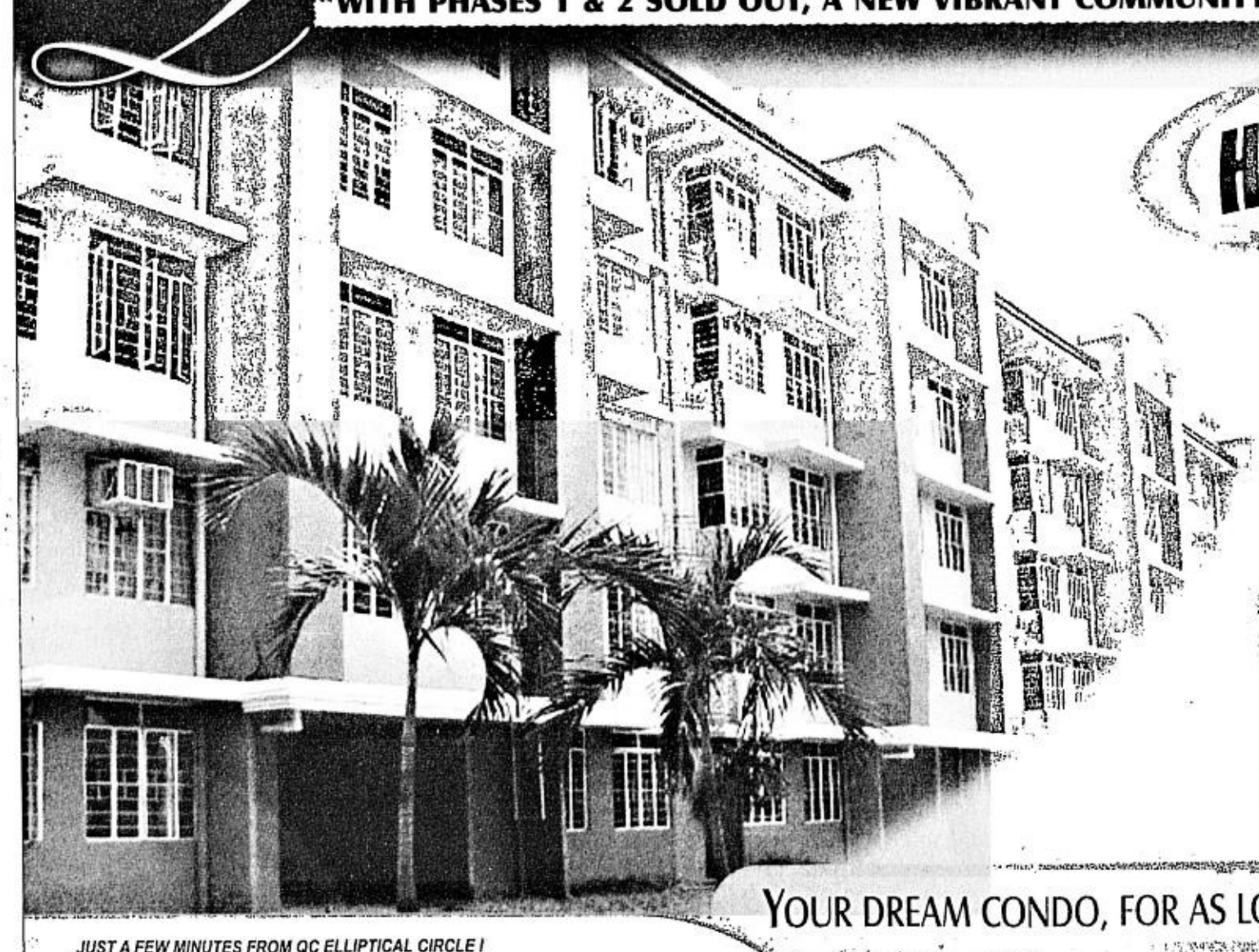

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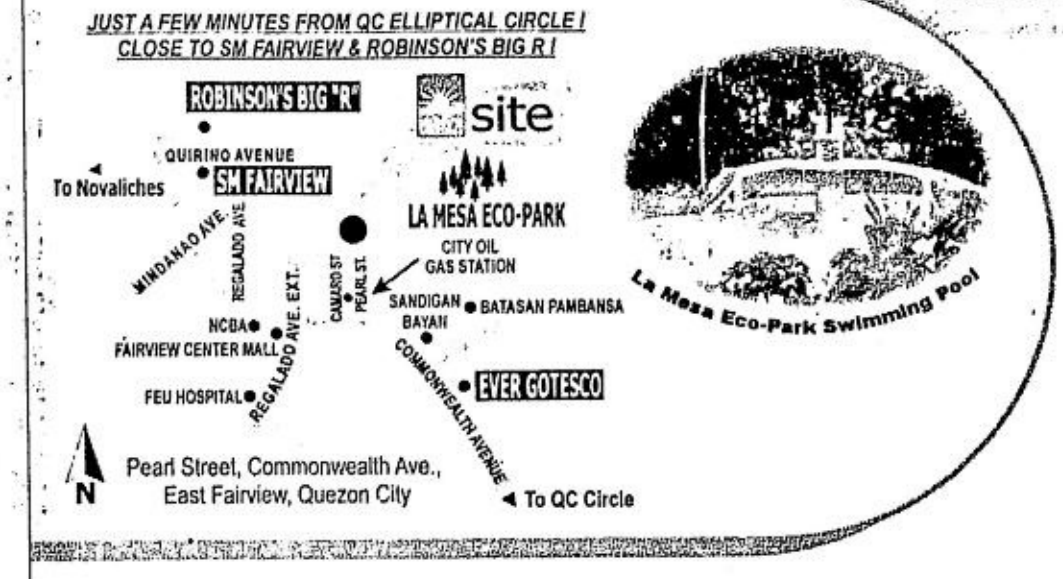

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Bush accepts nomination, promises a 'safer world'

From page A1

Republican presidential nomination at the end of a four-day convention in New York—exactly two months away from the Nov. 2 election.

In the city that transformed his presidency three Septembers ago, Bush declared to a raucous Republican convention crowd: "We have fought the terrorists across the earth—not for pride, not for power, but because the lives of our citizens are at stake. ... We have led, many have joined, and America and the world are safer."

Bush stood a few kilometers from where two hijacked planes destroyed the World Trade Center on Sept. 11, 2001, to make a nationally broadcast appeal to Americans for another term.

Bush, speaking from a circular stage at Madison Square Garden, outlined proposals that he said would address education, health care and jobs, while battering Democratic rival Sen. John Kerry for what he said was a weak and wavering record on national security and the economy.

Thousands of people protested Bush as he spoke at the convention, with at least two dozen people arrested even before he took the stage.

A crowd stretching five blocks chanted and roared outside the Garden in an area designated for protests, while thousands of others gathered a few miles south in Union Square Park, holding candles, singing protest songs and voicing rage against the Iraq war and the president.

Nearly 1,800 protesters have been arrested in a week of rallies and marches that were the largest in the history of US political conventions.

Shaped by tragedy

Bush repeatedly referred to the Sept. 11, 2001, terrorist attacks as he portrayed his first term in the White House as one shaped by that tragedy.

He suggested that Kerry would falter in the face of the continuing threat to America.

He sought to make a virtue of his differences with half or more of the electorate, and cast Kerry as a pandering, indecisive liberal unfit for wartime leadership.

"One thing I have learned about the presidency is that whatever shortcomings you have, people are going to notice them," Bush said, "and whatever strengths you have, you're going to need them."

Rare to admit mistakes, Bush copped to a few—arrogant, too blunt and cocky, and explained them away with laugh lines. But he didn't give an inch on the matters that matter most, a war in Iraq that has cost the lives of nearly 1,000 US troops, and a job-loss record that rivals Depression-era President Herbert Hoover.

US headed in wrong direction?

These two issues are fueling a sense of unease among voters, with nearly 60 percent saying the nation is headed in the wrong direction. By a 3-to-1 margin, people think the war in Iraq increased rather than decreased the threat of terrorism, and a solid majority don't think Bush has a clear plan for bringing the Iraq war to a successful resolution. He offered none in the speech, promising to bring troops home "as soon as possible," when Iraq is secure and democratic.

Bush defended the war by tying it, with the slenderest of threads, to the Sept. 11 attacks. At the dawn of an era of terror, his hand was forced by Saddam Hussein and strengthened by the support of US allies and congressional leaders, including Kerry, the President said.

"Do I forget the lessons of Sept. 11th and take the word of a madman, or do I take actions to defend our country?" Bush said. "Faced with that choice, I will defend America every time."

Then he set about suggesting that Kerry would make a different choice. The idea is to make people afraid to change, even as they're craving it.

Tough guy image

Bush noted that the Massachusetts senator voted to authorize war, then voted on both sides of a bill to pay for it. He said Kerry has mocked the small coalition of allies that backed the conflict.

On the domestic front, Bush said, "We've seen an economy rise to its feet" and ticked off a laundry list of small-bore initiatives to keep it rising. He promised more money to train workers and for community colleges and more economic zones offering tax relief to the poorest areas.

Bush also took time to poke fun at his struggles with the English language and other foibles.

"People sometimes have to correct my English," he said. "I knew I had a problem when Arnold Schwarzenegger started doing it." The Austrian-born action hero, now the Republican governor of California, is backing Bush for re-election.

But true to his image as a tough guy who fights back, Bush also took aim at those who have taken exception to what they see as bravado when he walks.

Texan's swagger

"Some folks look at me and see a certain swagger—which in Texas is called walking," he said.

"Now and then I come across as a little too blunt, and for that we can all thank the white-haired lady sitting right up there," he said, pointing to his mother, Barbara Bush.

In the middle of Bush's speech, more than a thousand people marched out of the park down 15th Street and north on Eighth Avenue toward the Garden, chanting "No more Bush!" and other slogans.

Kerry delivered his toughest attack on Bush and Vice President Dick Cheney in a late-night rally in Springfield, Ohio.

"We all saw the anger and distortion of the Republican convention," Kerry said. "For the past week, they attacked my patriotism and my fitness to serve as commander in chief. Well, here's my answer: I'm not going to have my commitment to defend this country questioned by those who refused to serve when they could have and by those who have misled the nation into Iraq."

While Bush is basing his campaign on his tough stance towards national security and a US right to launch preemptive strikes on suspected terrorists, he has avoided focusing on the economy.

Kerry wants to take advantage of that chink in Bush's armor, spotlighting the fact that 2.4 million people have lost their jobs on his watch.

Bush has staked his re-election on his ability to protect the United States from terrorism, running the risk of losing votes on key bread-and-butter issues, analysts said.

Bush's father lost his bid for re-election in 1992 precisely because he ignored the economy.

A recent Gallup poll showed Kerry leading Bush 49-43 percent in voter confidence in his ability to manage the economy. The president also did not appear to have scored many points with his tax cut proposals. *AP, with AFP, New York Times*

PRESIDENT Bush and the First Lady, Laura Bush, wave at the end of the Republican Party national convention on Thursday in New York. AP

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US to help RP curb drug trafficking

CEBU CITY—The United States government will help the Philippines in its fight against illegal drugs in the form of equipment and training, US Ambassador Frank Ricciardone Jr. said here yesterday.

Ricciardone said the US would be sending Timothy Teal, the chief of the US Drugs Enforcement Agency (DEA), to help train Philippine law enforcers and to preside over discussions on narcotics counter-intelligence.

The US envoy made these pledge at a meeting with Cebu City Rep. Antonio Cuenco, House committee chair on foreign affairs, and Cebu Gov. Gwendolyn Garcia.

Cuenco, who is also House committee vice chair on illegal drugs, had written to Ricciardone about the "runaway proliferation" of the illegal drugs in the country.

He said it was necessary to look into the US strategy in the fight against illegal drugs as the latter had more than a 50 percent success rate in prosecuting drug cases compared to the Philippines' 2 percent.

The DEA experts will help train the policemen members of the Philippine Drug Enforcement Agency in Central Visayas, the Cebu City Police Office and the Cebu Provincial Police Office.

Cuenco said the team, probably numbering 10, would stay in Cebu for a week and would bring in some equipment needed for the training exercise to be held in late September or early October.

Ricciardone clarified that the training would include policemen from all over the country although the venue would be either Cebu or Manila.

Aside from Teal, the US will also be sending a legal attaché to confer with authorities on improving the prosecution of drug cases, he said.

Ricciardone suggested that the Philippines might adopt US wiretapping practices to track down drug lords as well as kidnappers and terrorists. He said wiretapping can be done the right way and used as admissible evidence without encroaching on personal freedom.

"Strengthening the rule of law is important to everything, to business. There is a need for a good legislation. We can share expertise, you can look on ours," said Ricciardone.

Cuenco, who authored the Comprehensive Dangerous Drugs Act, said he planned to file a bill to amend the country's wiretapping law but said he expected objections to it.

"It's about time we utilize this. There is a police power of the state, we can tap phones, cell phones of the drug pushers and drug lords," said the congressman, adding that he would hold public hearings so people would know how important it is.

Philippine National Police chief Edgar Aglipay meanwhile has tapped a former classmate to continue the campaign against drug trafficking that he led before becoming PNP chief.

Director Ricardo de Leon, Aglipay's mistah at Philippine Military Academy Class 1971, will now head the Anti-Illegal Drugs Special Operations Task Force, the PNP unit that Aglipay headed.

The appointment of De Leon, who will concurrently head the Philippine Center for Transnational Crime, is seen as the PNP leadership's way of appeasing him after he was virtually shoved out of the organization by being appointed to the PCTC.

De Leon headed for six months the National Capital Region Police Office. He was succeeded by Director Avelino Razon Jr.

A senior police official said De Leon could have moved up the PNP hierarchy had not Deputy Director General Reynaldo Velasco, a PMA batch mate, been appointed as the PNP's third in command.

His new job will be quite demanding. Aglipay has said that there are now 3.4 million drug users in the Philippines. He said drug trafficking was now a P25-billion industry, despite the government's recent success in going after drug syndicates. *Jolene R. Bulambot and Jhunnex Napallacan, PDI Visayas Bureau, and Christian V. Esguerra*

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Is the world safer?

EDITORIAL

OFFICIALS threw the book at them, and yet the protesters came. The conservative, cautious New York Times estimated the number of protesters that swarmed the streets of Manhattan on the first day of the Republican National Convention at a staggering 500,000. If arrests are any indicator, the protests that began that day were indeed large: 1,700 arrested and counting. Government warnings of assemblies being used as a cover by terrorists, a huge police presence, and even denials of permits to protesters, including the Republican mayor of New York refusing a permit for a rally in the city's Central Park on the excuse there was fresh grass that might be trampled, couldn't stop the onslaught of protest.

But the protests also could not stop the Republican counteroffensive in an election that is already putting the bitter contest of 2000 to shame. One by one, the big guns of the Republicans, including show-biz star turned California governor, Arnold Schwarzenegger, went to the podium to denounce their Democratic opponents.

It was, however, the very choice of the venue for the Republican political fiesta—the city of New York—that set the tone for the campaign. From the day it was announced months back, New Yorkers were outraged over the selection of their city for a purely partisan exercise calculated to take political advantage of the Sept. 11 tragedy. Not just because New York City is heavily Democratic, but because their city's ordeal is something they felt shouldn't be demeaned by being turned into a party mascot. Many New Yorkers voted with their feet, fleeing the city for the duration of the convention. Many more also took to their feet in protest.

At a time when a million American jobs have been lost, the Republican party has decided to anchor its campaign on George W. Bush's image as a war leader. The convention featured his wife singing his praises as a commander; it continued with more such praises from his vice president and even a Democratic politician who once helped nominate Bill Clinton; and it ended with Bush himself making a prime-time speech proclaiming the enduring virtues of his "War on Terror."

The world, however, could not have failed to notice that even as the Republicans beat the war drums in New York, two buses were destroyed by suicide bombers in Israel; hundreds of young students were taken hostage by bomb-wielding terrorists in one of the former republics of the Soviet Union; bombs continued to explode in Iraq; and Osama bin Laden remains free.

The Republican party is hoping to achieve victory on the basis of the inability of terrorists to mount a serious attack on the United States. It ignores the results the Republican-led war on terror has had on so many other countries: Spain, bombed; Thailand, with its Muslim region seething in rebellion; Italians, Japanese and Filipinos held hostage in Iraq. From a myopic point of view, the argument may hold water that America is safer; but Americans, and those who try to be her friends, are not. In the end, America is not safer: it has merely held off attacks for now, at great cost to her prestige, influence and economy.

America has not seen so many arrests during a political convention since the late 1960s, when the American youth, outraged over the Vietnam War, stormed the Democratic convention in Chicago, much more violently, it must be said, than the protesters that took to Manhattan's avenues. To those who are old enough to remember Vietnam, there is an eerie sense of déjà vu that arises from witnessing a nation that professes such idealism straying so far from the path of its own beliefs.

The Republicans have proclaimed their convention a "defining moment" in the contemporary history of America. Their opponents concede that there is, indeed, a fight for the very soul of their country. For people like us, watching from the periphery, it must be asked, is the world safer?

The world surely has an answer, and it is no. But it doesn't vote in American elections. It just has to live with their consequences—or die because of them.

Hogging the pork barrel

SEPARATE OPINION

Isagani A. Cruz

KUDOS to Senators Joker Arroyo, Panfilo Lacson, Alfredo Lim and Manuel Roxas for joining Senate President Franklin Drilon in giving up their pork barrel allocations in the current general appropriations bill. They deserve the highest praise for their selflessness compared to the continuing greed of their colleagues who have clung to their dubious perquisites despite general public disgust over their imperviousness to the serious financial crisis of the country that requires sacrifice from everyone, especially its leaders.

Some of those who are reluctant to give up their extraordinary privileges are trying to justify their cupidity by arguing that they have certain commitments and promises to fulfill to their constituents, who are the ones ultimately to suffer with the abolition of the pork barrel. That is hogwash, of course. They are just being piggish because their real intention is to advance their own finances, not only through transfer of some of their pork barrel allocation to their own personal accounts but also through the exaction of the usual kickbacks from crooked contractors for the public projects to which the rest of their fund is devoted.

Especially hypocritical is the change of heart of some party-list representatives who were so opposed to the pork barrel, calling it a massive theft of public funds, when they were still private citizens and not honorable members of the House of Representatives. Now they are singing a different tune as potential beneficiaries of the very abuse they attacked so self-righteously and doggedly before. It is possible that their previous commendable stand against the pork barrel might have been one of the reasons why their party was favored by the electorate, but that is no longer important. So soon have these pretenders blithely rejected their past principles in favor of present profits.

Speaker Jose de Venecia has launched a donation campaign to induce his colleagues in the lower House to make personal donations to the government in order to lighten the current financial crisis. He has himself given P1 million of his own money to what he calls a Freedom Fund to reduce the national deficit. He is hoping others will follow suit, with the 5,000 richest families to also contribute P1 million each, for a total amount of P5 billion. This would not include the sums that could come from the congressmen themselves which could make up a tidy fortune, too if they would be so generous.

Having a suspicious mind when it comes to politicians' supposedly affirmative gambits, I have the feeling that the Speaker's donation campaign has a secret egocentric and ungenerous motive. While conceding and praising its announced purpose, I think it is also a scheme to save the pork barrel. The leader of the House knows the sentiment of its members, and that sentiment is selfish. There are a few conscientious souls in that suspect chamber who detest the pork barrel and are prepared, nay, determined, to kill it once and for all. However, the great majority of the chosen representatives of the people in the lower (the "l" is not capitalized) House are prepared, nay determined, to save it.

Perhaps Speaker De Venecia is hoping that if his Freedom Fund succeeds and is moreover supplemented with the voluntary donations of the members of the House of Representatives, it will no longer be necessary to talk about removing or reducing the pork barrel. The current effort against it will be abandoned and Congress can quietly go back to the old happy system and continue enjoying the perquisites the senators and representatives have been maintaining in the general appropriations law every year.

That's a bad dream, or better still, a nightmare if you will. The current financial crisis, coupled by the increased revulsion against this monstrous abuse of the people's money by the grasping few in Congress and Malacañang, can no longer save the pork barrel. Attacking it before was merely fashionable and pro forma for public consumption, and not many people paid attention. President Estrada was dutifully applauded when he announced its abolition as a major policy of his administration, but nobody complained when the pork barrel remained untouched. But it is different now because the people are fed up and the public treasury is washed up.

It is incredible that, according to verifiable statistics reported in this paper, the members of Congress receive a total of P20 *billion* in pork barrel allocations every year—P65 million for each representative and P200 million for each senator. That fantastic amount could be better used to serve more urgent public needs like the establishment of more schools, health centers and hospitals, the purchase of medicines for the needy, the hiring of better teachers and the increase of their salaries, the construction of feeder roads, and other projects designed to improve the life of the sovereign people. The government has neglected this basic obligation, in favor of the abusive few who enjoy the pork barrel.

How much longer will the nation endure this tyranny of avarice? There must be an end to its supine toleration by the suffering people.

Lower real income, more equal distribution

GET REAL

Solita Collas-Monsod

THERE'S good news and bad news that the recently released 2003 Family Income and Expenditure Survey (FIES) brings. The good news is that the distribution of income in the Philippines has become slightly more equal. The share in total income of the Top 10 percent (the 10th decile) of Filipino families dropped from 38.3 percent in 2000 to 36.8 percent last year, while the share of each of the other nine deciles increased correspondingly, with the poorest 30 percent of families accounting for 8.4 percent of total income, up from 7.9 percent. Not a very large increase, granted, but every little bit helps.

The Gini ratio, a measure of inequality (with values between 0 and 1, in order of increasing inequality), bears this out: It went down from 0.4822 to 0.4660 during the three-year period.

This does not mean, of course, that every region in the Philippines experienced the same improvement. The NCR shows the greatest improvement, while the ARRM shows the greatest relative deterioration in income distribution, closely followed by the Zamboanga Peninsula (Region IX). In fact, 8 of the 17 regions in the Philippines had higher Gini ratios in 2003 than in 2000—but we are concentrating on the good news at the moment.

Another piece of good news is that the average real family income (taking out the effect of prices) increased in three regions—Cagayan Valley, Bicol and Central Visayas—while it remained the same in a fourth region, the ARMM. This is good news, particularly because Bicol and the ARMM have very high percentage of families living below the poverty line (poverty incidence).

Admittedly, this may be stretching the good news a little too wide, but it should be pointed out that the share of food expenditures in total expenditures has also gone down. This does **not** indicate that people are eating less. Under normal circumstances, this would indicate Engle's Law, which says that increases in income are accompanied by less than proportional increases in demand for food, but as we shall see subsequently (in the bad news portion), this does not apply. The more obvious reason for the decrease in the share of food expenditures, borne out by the data, is that food prices have not gone up as fast as the prices of other commodities, which is something we can all derive some comfort from. The Consumer Price Index (CPI) shows that while the price level of all items went up by 14.9 percent between 2000 and 2003, the price of food, beverages (and tobacco) went up by 8.7 percent.

That total family income went up by 8.9 percent overall would have qualified to be good news, except that the number of families contributing to that income increased by 933,000 at the same time. This means that average nominal family incomes grew by only 2.5 percent. When we take into consideration that the general level of prices, or CPI, as mentioned above, went up by 14.9 percent, that means that even if average incomes went up, the amount of goods these could buy went down. (Oops, National Statistics Office, your slip is showing. According to the July 2004 Economic Indicators released by the NCSB, inflation for 2003 was 14.9 percent, while in the FIES release, you indicate an inflation rate of 13.9 percent. It is your office which is in charge. Which one is the typographical error?)

Which is the start of the bad news. Taking the movement of prices into consideration, that increase in nominal average income translates to a decrease in real average family income amounting to 10 percent for the Philippines as a whole. This means that even with their increase in income, they could buy 10 percent less goods. Families in the NCR suffered a 19.3 percent **decrease** in their real incomes, followed by those in Region X or Northern Mindanao (12 percent), Region XIII or Caraga (10.4 percent) and Region IV-A or Calabarzon (10.1 percent).

The impact of this on the country's poverty situation is pretty bad. After all, while a country's growth is a necessary condition for development, it is not sufficient. The growth must result in increased well-being for the people, particularly in the marginalized sectors.

The data show that when the growth rate of average family income outstrips the growth rate in prices (inflation rate), this is accompanied by a drop in poverty incidence. This happened in 1988 (as compared to 1985), 1991, 1994 and 1997. In the latter year, while prices went up by 24.7 percent compared to 1994, average incomes rose by 48.1 percent, and poverty incidence went down by almost 4 percentage points. On the other hand, while average family income in 2000 was 16.9 percent higher than in 1997, the general price level increased by 22.1 percent—and poverty incidence **increased** by almost one percentage point.

In the current situation, you have average incomes increasing by 2.5 percent, while prices increased by 13.9 percent (or 14.9 percent) between 2000 and 2003. It stands to reason that poverty incidence **increased** during the period—and by a larger amount than in 2000.

By now the reader must be wondering why there is a discrepancy between the story we get from the National Income Accounts (our GDP growth rates), and the story we get from the Family Income and Expenditure Survey (on poverty). Well, economists and statisticians are also surprised. (This is the first time that this has happened in the Philippines, although it is not a unique experience in other developing countries.)

Until the time we have an explanation, Erap has every reason to laugh, and the opposition will be having a field day.

Symbols

POLITICAL TIDBITS

Belinda Olivares-Cunanan

IN TIMES of national crisis, symbols are always important. In Great Britain, for instance, during World War II, the Royal Family became the symbol of stubborn resistance to German bombs. During the reign of terror of the Khmer Rouge in Cambodia, the presence of King Sihanouk and Queen Monineath in Phnom Penh, even though they could only manage to plant vegetables on the palace grounds as house prisoners, was a source of inspiration to their people.

In our current fiscal crisis, various moves by our leaders have become symbols to the nation. These include the giving up by the senators of 50 to 100 percent of their pork barrel, a similar move by congressmen to cut 38 percent of their pork and, not the least, the targeted P5 billion "Freedom Fund" being put together by Speaker Jose de Venecia, who donated P1 million from his personal funds. Donors to this Freedom Fund include various businessmen from the different chambers of commerce.

* * *

All these moves are good and useful symbols that raise the hopes and morale of the people during this fiscal crisis. But there were some curious reactions from the ordinary citizenry. There were those who felt that donations being given by the taipans of P1 million or P2 million were a pittance. As one Makati employee put it, asking any of the taipans to donate P1 million is like asking this citizen to give P20.

I rather subscribe to the argument of Lance Gokongwei, president of JG Summit Corp., who opined that more than the symbolic gesture of donating cash, what is more important is for big businesses to pay their taxes correctly. I recall one BIR official who related some years back that of the thousands of residents in the plushest subdivisions of Makati, Forbes Park and Dasmariñas Village, there were actually an insignificant number who paid P1 million in taxes a year! I wonder if the picture has changed now. Paying the correct taxes has become a patriotic duty.

* * *

The nation surely appreciates the P2 million that tycoon Lucio Tan has pledged to JDV's Freedom Fund. But it would really be such a big help if he would pay the P7.8 billion in back taxes (from excise taxes, VAT and income taxes) that for some years now has been classified as "immediately collectible" from his business empire, but which remains uncollected. This amount is part of the P25.6 billion in back taxes slapped on Tan during the Ramos era, which he is contesting till now in court. The P7.8 billion is classified as immediately collectible because Tan did not appeal the assessment for 1992 and, by operation of law, it has become final and executory. If Tan were to pay this amount, what a big help it would be in this crisis.

* * *

The fiscal crisis is in the minds of all citizens and, as history has proved on countless occasions, times of adversity could be splendid opportunities to unite a people. Some citizens have, in fact, wondered if an appeal couldn't be made to the seven or eight million Filipinos abroad to donate just $1 per person. That singular act alone would immediately infuse into the economy $7 million to $8 million or P385 million.

The options are limitless. The senators and representatives are taking a cut from their PDAFs or salaries, and the Palace has said it would match whatever they give up. Businessmen have pledged millions and the Church has asked the clergy to give up part of their allowances. Now comes the Philippine National Police under Director General Edgar Aglipay surrendering a day's wage, which could come up to P25 million. But what about the executives of the government-owned and controlled corporations who are paid very high salaries? Can they not donate also part of their pay?

* * *

Some quarters are objecting to the appointment of former Batanes Rep. Florencio Abad as education secretary on the grounds that he's not an educator and that, being the Liberal Party president, he's just another politician. I would shoot those objections down by stressing that perhaps it's better that a non-educator heads the DepEd, just as it seems better that a non-military heads the Department of National Defense for they bring a fresh approach and perspective to their new turf.

Few probably know that Abad was recommended to President Macapagal-Arroyo by his predecessor, Secretary Edilberto de Jesus, who said Abad "can build on the foundations we have established." De Jesus said the former lawmaker "shares our vision for the education sector and has the credentials to push the legislative agenda required for further reform." Those credentials include his business administration degree from the Ateneo in 1980, the law degree he earned from the same university in 1985 as a president's scholar, and his master's degree in public administration from Harvard University in 1993 as a Ford/Asia Foundation scholar. He has also attended special training seminars in prestigious institutions abroad.

* * *

After a brief stint in Cory Aquino's Cabinet, Abad ran for three consecutive terms in Congress and this gave him enormous experience in various committees, notably the powerful appropriations committee as well as the agrarian reform, basic education and energy committees. But just as important, he's an acknowledged mover in civil society, particularly in agrarian development, peace-building and governance reforms and public education advocacies. All of these give him a wealth of experience in consensus- and linkage-building which the DepEd, after all, is really all about (between school, parents and community). Former Senate President Jovito Salonga also told me something that few know: Abad was imprisoned in Fort Bonifacio and Camp Bicutan in 1978 and was detained at Camp Karingal in 1980 with his wife Dina, who's now the Batanes representative, for their advocacy of human and trade union rights.

Listening to the choir

AT LARGE

Rina Jimenez-David

LONDON—"Some have criticized this gathering as a collection of the choir," remarked Dr. Fred Sai at the opening plenary of "Countdown 2015," a global roundtable taking place here marking the 10th anniversary of the International Conference on Population and Development (ICPD).

Dr. Sai, a family health physician from Ghana who is best known as the chair of the negotiations in the 1994 ICPD in Cairo and the previous meet in Mexico in 1984, was in his typical down-to-earth manner remarking on the fact that the majority of those gathered in London were the "converted," being themselves advocates, experts, activists and service providers in various fields of sexual and reproductive health and rights.

"But the choir doesn't sing for itself alone," he added. "It is the responsibility of the choir to sing to the community, and to get them to join the singing."

The problem, though, is that not only is the "choir" greeted by catcalls and jeers from those who disagree with them among the audience, but also that members of the choir themselves sing with discordant voices. Another urgent task for the choir members gathered here, then, is not just to find a common voice, or at least to attempt to sing in harmony, but also to, as Dr. Sai said, "examine the anthems we sing, look at the melody and harmony, and take a closer look at the percussion instruments."

Having been "midwife" of the Cairo consensus, Dr. Sai, who just last week celebrated his 80th birthday, said he was perhaps justified in his inordinate pride in his "baby." "The ICPD achieved a level of agreement that seems astounding today," he said. But 10 years after Cairo, not only is this consensus coming under attack, it is also being subverted at the policy and program level, locally and internationally, largely through the "unjust impositions of big governments and big churches."

* * *

THIS is not just a matter of global geo-political and religious struggle, Sai made clear. For the misinformation being spread on matters of sexual and reproductive health and the withholding of funding and services to programs that address these concerns "amount to denial of access to the fruits of science and technology" to those who need it most—poor women and their children.

Thoraya Ahmed Obaid, executive director of the UN Population Fund, identified three areas that are "especially critical": maternal health, HIV/AIDS and access to and funding for essential supplies.

"No other health indicator exhibits such a glaring gap, such a discrepancy between rich and poor nations, as maternal mortality," said Obaid. The deaths of women due to pregnancy and childbirth, she said, "is more than a shame, it is a crime. And invariably, it is the poorest and youngest women who fare the worst." Indeed, pregnancy and childbirth are the leading causes of death to young women between 15 and 19 years old around the world.

On the other hand, of the 14,000 people who get infected with HIV/AIDS every day, half are women and half are young people between the ages of 15 and 24, Obaid said. "We can protect women from the disease by investing in their health and rights. Giving a woman access to reproductive health services and information is the surest way to help her avoid sexually transmitted infections. This would also save her from unwanted pregnancy and unsafe abortion."

The third issue, she said, is the shortage of reproductive health commodities, condoms and contraceptives, made even more urgent by findings that demand for these is expected to increase by 40 percent between now and 2015.

* * *

"TODAY, every single minute: 190 women become pregnant with a pregnancy they do not want or did not plan—and which contraceptives could have prevented. Today, every single minute, 650 people contract a sexually transmitted infection and 10 people are infected with HIV—all of which could have been avoided with condoms," said Obaid.

And what makes the situation all the more alarming is that funding for reproductive health services has been falling. In 1992, said Obaid, donor governments contributed 30 percent of the money for contraceptive commodities, but 10 years later, the figure stood at just over 20 percent. An even bigger scandal is that the governments of the world's richest countries have given the least, while those of poor and developing countries are doing "slightly better." And it's not as if the money isn't there—it's just the political will that's missing. As Obaid observed, "adding just one day's worth of the world's $1 trillion in yearly military spending to Cairo's annual funding would fulfill the 20-year promise of the ICPD."

* * *

QUITE apart from seeing to it that "the choir" sings louder, or at least "gets a bigger loudspeaker," as another participant remarked, another urgent task is to make the choir bigger, to strengthen or to create, if necessary, links with other groups and advocacies such as the HIV/AIDS community and the environmental movement.

Steve Sinding, director general of the International Planned Parenthood Federation, said that several efforts had been made to link with these two communities but he sensed "a reluctance" to join up with the sexual and reproductive health groups "because of the controversy around reproductive health and sexuality." He had a sense, he said, that "they were keeping at arm's length from us."

Reaching out to these groups and learning from their experiences and finding ways to broaden the reach of advocacy efforts are also part of the agenda during this Roundtable. If people are to be at the center of development, then all these groups should realize that all these issues really have to do with people and with helping people, especially women and youth, improve their lives.

Calamities

SENSE AND SENSIBILITY

Bambi L. Harper

WE like to say that we are so used to natural disasters that we don't flinch year in and year out when the monsoon season comes along causing monstrous floods. Our history is replete with stories of epidemics, wars, invasions, politics (one has to admit it has been rather calamitous), and various other natural disasters. The last big one within living memory seems to be the Pinatubo eruption, but the next disaster soon obliterates the memory of the previous one. The following are old accounts of eruptions; the difference is that the population was nowhere near what it is right now and thus, few were affected unlike in present-day calamities.

In 1627, one of the highest mountains of the Caraballos sunk. In Mindanao, after a great earthquake, a horrible crevice opened in a mountain and gave passage to the waves of the sea, leaving the once beautiful countryside uninhabitable. Tales of such disasters in different epochs are part of the popular lore handed down from generation to generation.

In 1871 it was reported that Mayon Volcano was emitting smoke. The writer noted that it was well known that it had erupted more than once and blanketed the region with ashes and stones. On July 20, 1767, it erupted in a burst of smoke and flames for 10 days, creating a frightful river of lava more than 20 fathoms wide in the eastern section. In the same year, on Oct. 24, it discharged such a huge amount of water that it destroyed the towns of Malinao, Camalig, Guinobatan, Ligao, Polangui and even Albay. To the southwest, trees were covered with sand up to their crowns.

It was frightening, and indeed something to be feared, to think that a whole region may someday be altered into a vast lake as what happened in Batangas where a mountain sunk. The only thing that was left atop the waters was a little volcano no taller than a knoll.

It is true that the Laguna of Taal and the island of that volcano present a unique and singular aspect. It measures some three leagues and has a triangular shape. The isle looks like a submerged mountain, at whose top is a crater measuring a league in circumference. Within is a lagoon whose depth is still unknown and whose verdigris waters are impregnated with particles of sulfur. It lies on the same level as the Laguna de Taal.

On Sept. 24, 1716, this volcano blew up with a horrible boom. The earth trembled and the fire ran three leagues up to the Macolot Mountain while bubbling water and ashes spewed in dizzying amounts. The water in the lagoon turned black and boiled with an insufferable odor of brimstone. The eruption lasted three days.

A more terrible eruption happened in December 1764 which destroyed the towns of Taal, Salas and Lipa. Again the waters of the lagoon boiled and bubbled and terrible rivers of sulfur and bitumen appeared, leveling the area of Bonbon. The ashes reached the provinces of Tondo, Bulacan and Pampanga. In Cavite, it grew so dark at noon the lights had to be turned on. The very roofs of Manila, 20 leagues from the volcano, were covered with ash while the whole island shuddered with the horrible thunder and terrifying rumbles that cut through the air and through the interior of the earth.

There are volcanoes as well in Mindanao and in the month of January 1640, one of its mountains, 60 leagues from Zamboanga, exploded with a dreadful noise, spewing tree trunks from its top to a distance of two leagues. Hundreds of years later, the surroundings still bear traces of the eruption. The ashes reached the farthest islands of the archipelago and even to Borneo and the Moluccas, while night descended on Zamboanga. A lake was formed and darkness extended over the waters so that lanterns had to be lighted at 8 in the morning for the embarkation of troops in Ternate.

In that same island and its waters, other volcanoes have inflicted great damage and opened crevices, deepened lagoons and even caused islands to rise from the depths of the abyss.

It is said that the magnificence of creation that exists in the Philippines comes at the price of great ruin. In October, the west wind called the vendaval replaces the north wind, causing rains that sometimes last for 15 days without let-up. Thus, the floods begin and it is almost impossible to walk through the streets, disgracefully bad to begin with, and the amount of water is so great that it covers the fields converting them into interminable lakes.

But once the waters recede, the vista refreshes with its unfading velvety verdure like a thick carpet where showy flowers are born, whose splendor outshines even the most beautiful of the temperate zone. One harvest replaces another without the vegetation dying or the corpulent trees losing their leaves.

Hurricanes are frequent and ruinous with winds whipping roofs off, devastating the fields, tearing the leaves off the trees leaving them bald, isolating the houses, thoroughly destroying them in the coasts, putting ships in danger and frightening everyone so that it seems like the end of the world. There is nothing in the West comparable to the incessant thunder and lightning and the hoarse noise of a *bagyo* that without ceasing moves the foundations of the earth.

("Cronica General de España," 1871, by various authors).

* * *

Comments to bambiharper@yahoo.com

Dumb ads and smart ads

YOUNG BLOOD

Frances Doplon

We want to know what the young are thinking about. What are their thoughts on current issues? We welcome contributions from the twentysomething and below.—**Ed.**

BEING THE DAUGHTER of a graphic designer, I grew up surrounded by many print advertisements. This exposure has made me quite sensitive to innovations in print design and aware of the evolution of ads.

I can still recall the days when my dad had to literally cut and paste photos while working on a design, using rugby as an adhesive, and using those rub-on stencils. One night during a power blackout, which often happened in the late 1980s, we almost burned ourselves when the rugby on one of my dad's plates caught fire after a candle toppled over.

Now, there's no need to fear that. Technology has eliminated the fire hazard and the tedious task of carefully cutting out figures from photographs.

In the meantime, ads have moved from newspapers to billboards to floors and all kinds of location! I continue to be amazed at how ingenious advertisers can be, placing their ads everywhere!

But one thing I have also noticed with regret is that many brands have lost confidence in their products. I'm no marketing expert, just a consumer or a viewer responding to the images advertisers send to millions of other potential consumers out there. So, what prompts me to say that?

One complaint I have is this: There are so many people and faces everywhere endorsing products to which they can hardly be related. Consider the Speed detergent ad. Do the Sex Bomb Dancers even do their laundry? What makes a bunch of dancers credible endorsers of laundry detergents? They hardly cover themselves while normal people wear jeans and shirts or dresses.

Last summer, Tide placed a huge ad along Edsa. It just showed one big logo. Apparently company officials believed enough in their product. They knew everybody knew and trusts Tide and that it needed no one to endorse it. The logo spoke for itself, and it could stand alone.

What is even worse is that some companies manifest their lack of confidence in their products not only by using "controversial" endorsers (whoever captures intense emotional response) but also by making some strong reference to sex. In plain language, they use sex to sell their products. And they don't care what effect this may have especially on young minds.

Brand managers will probably answer that these images have aesthetic value, that they are produced for art's sake. But beauty is that which is pleasing to behold because of their truth and goodness. Nobody wants to be deceived. Nobody appreciates a lie. Images that present a distorted view of reality contradict the very nature of art.

Other companies might say, "Well that's their problem. Our audience is smart enough to distinguish what is artistic and what is vulgar."

But why do they treat people as if they were dumb? Take the example of the some makers of underwear. Why do they show the stuff as some kind of over or above wear? *Kaya ngd* under, because they are supposed to be worn *sa ilalim.* What's the point of showing garments being worn in a way that they are not supposed to be worn? Not only does this show a lack of confidence in their product, it also demonstrates a lack of creativity. And yet ads like this have been popping up like mushrooms these days!

On the other hand, the latest ad of Kamiseta showing Natalie Portman sporting a denim jacket and pants is a refreshing sight. It just shows me how much Kamiseta trusts Portman—as well as its own products. Portman looks nice, neat and preppy in her Kamiseta outfit. If I ever had the chance to meet Portman, I would say to her, "Nice outfit!" That ad gives justice to Portman, who is a movie star and a Yale student.

Other ads that I like are those of Fundador and Coca-Cola, which creatively and elegantly promote their products alone. When I first saw the Fundador ad, I told myself that for once I have seen a liquor brand that didn't use a bikini-clad woman to sell it.

Consumers aren't just passive viewers submitting to whatever image is being flashed at them. We react, too! And I challenge advertisers to squeeze out more of their creative juices and try to make ads that make sense, because there are many that don't. Smart audiences deserve smart ads.

Frances Doplon, 22, is an AB Humanities student at the University of Asia and the Pacific.

WHATEVER HAPPENED TO . . .?

Coed killed by BMW

A WAYWARD BMW, driven by Richard Ong, plowed into Precious Baldo, a University of the Philippines philosophy student, and five others on Feb. 18, 2003 on the UP campus. Baldo died four days after the accident, while the five others survived their injuries.

Ong and his cousin Dick Kenneth Soriano, who was riding in his car, were reportedly drunk when the accident happened on the UP campus. Ong was charged with reckless imprudence resulting in homicide and multiple physical injuries.

The case was raffled off to Branch 88 of the Quezon City regional trial court, but was later transferred to the sala of Branch 89 Judge Elsa de Guzman.

Meryl Antonio, one of the victims who sustained serious physical injuries, said two other victims, Gwendolyn Puyat and Gerry Hipol, had already agreed to settle the case out of court. Baldo's parents, tricycle driver Arnel de La Cruz and Antonio herself were bent on seeing the case through.

Another victim, Gian Carla Ambrosio, has filed a separate case against Ong.

Case status: The trial is ongoing, with the prosecution presenting witnesses. The next hearing is scheduled on Sept. 7.

D.J. Yap, PDI Research

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Amend oil deregulation law

THERE are two very good reasons why I think the oil deregulation law should be amended:

1. Lack of built-in safeguards. When the country is faced with a crisis, the Department of Trade and Industry, invoking the Domestic Price Control Law, would pounce hard on small traders and on the *tinderos* and *tinderas* in *palengkes* as if these people are raking in millions in profits. But when the oil companies are the ones on a "price increase frenzy," the government does nothing and uses the oil deregulation law as a convenient excuse for its inaction.

The oil deregulation law should be amended to introduce an oil price control mechanism (OPCM) that would allow government intervention to control prices at some points. For instance, a benchmark price may be established (especially for diesel, apparently the most socially sensitive among oil products). When the benchmark price is about to be breached, the OPCM may be called into play.

The OPCM should also include the following:

- No price increase shall be allowed until the oil companies' "old stocks" are depleted.
- The government may compel the oil companies to raise their prices by small amounts instead of by a single big increase.
- Price increases shall be subject to review by the Department of Energy. In reviewing the prices, the DOE should not rely solely on the Dubai crude price and Mean of Platts Singapore (MOPS) benchmarks. Local refineries also process other types of crude oils and, in the case of local oil importers, they may not necessarily be paying the prices indicated in the MOPS because of discounts, term payments, etc. Such data can be easily checked from documents submitted to the Bureau of Customs by the oil companies.

One important tool that would be very useful—and should be developed by the DOE to aid them in their review—is what the oil refiners call the Refinery Linear Programming System. In the oil company I used to work for, this system is used extensively to simulate different types of crude oil to come up with the optimum crude mix that would yield the best results, given certain constraints.

2. When the oil industry was still regulated, people from the Bureau of Internal Revenue and the DOE would visit the oil terminals and depots at exactly 12 midnight before the day a price increase or decrease is to take effect. All loading operations in the terminals would stop and the BIR and DOE personnel would note down actual inventories of the oil companies, including those already in transit from the refineries to the depots. From what I gathered, this is no longer being done because of the oil deregulation law.

Incidentally, the practice enables the government to easily collect windfall profit tax, a good revenue source. This is another good reason why the oil deregulation law should be amended.

—ERNIE ADAYA,
Felix Avenue,
Cainta, Rizal

PHILIPPINE LETTERS Inquirer

No to 'Swiss challenge' for SSS shares

THE REPORTED decision of the Social Security System to auction its 29 percent block of Equitable PCI Bank shares under the so-called "Swiss challenge" rule is a ruse to get around the clamor of SSS members for an open public bidding.

Under the new SSS plan, Banco de Oro, which had previously contracted with the SSS to buy the shares at P43.50 per share, has the right to match the highest bid. Under such a situation, what buyer would be interested to participate in the auction knowing that, after investing in a due diligence audit to establish his bid price, BDO could simply match it and win the auction? Also, with the SSS reserving the right to reject any and all bids and to waive any formality without giving any reason, the SSS had practically sabotaged its own auction.

If we put this "pseudo-auction" together with the fact that the SSS, in its 2003 financial statements, revalued the EPCIB shares at P8.1 billion (its selling price to BDO in the lapsed contract), we can conclude that the SSS considers the sale to BDO an accomplished fact and the auction a ruse that it hopes the public, especially the retirees, may not see through.

We, in the Philippine Association of Retired Persons (PARP), challenge SSS president Corazon de la Paz and the SSS commissioners to prove to the SSS members that they truly want to sell the shares at the highest price available in the market by selling these through an open and unconditional bidding process. We believe the "Swiss challenge" would only work in favor of BDO.

Only then can SSS officials look at every SSS member in the eye and say that they have derived from the investment the highest return possible at this time.

—AMADO F. CABAERO,
founder and past president,
Philippine Association
of Retired Persons,
Sterling Homes, Las Piñas City

Fair media reporting; no need to apologize

YOUR story, "Raid on gov's aide's home yields guns, not drugs," (PDI, 8/23/04) unduly dragged my name when it mentioned that SPO4 Orlando Cadawas is an aide of mine.

Let me clarify that Cadawas is not an aide of mine. Senior Supt. Wilson Victorio, the police director assigned in Zambales, has also denied that he told the INQUIRER correspondent in Zambales that Cadawas is detailed to me.

I never expected the INQUIRER to use my name just for the sake of sensationalizing its story. I commend the Philippine Drug Enforcement Agency for conducting such activity in our province as I am also against drugs.

However, let me demand an apology from your correspondent, Allan Macatuno, for such unprofessional action. I understand that fairness in media reporting requires that your correspondent should have first taken my side before putting my name in his story.

—VICENTE P. MAGSAYSAY,
governor, Zambales,
Capitol Building, Iba, Zambales

MY story merely stated the facts I gathered during and after the operation conducted by agents of the PDEA. No detail was, in anyway, sensationalized. Although it was common knowledge in Zambales that Cadawas was an aide of Gov. Vicente Magsaysay, I still verified the information. I called up Senior Supt. Wilson Victorio, Zambales police director, and he confirmed to me that Cadawas was detailed to Magsaysay. I am, however, surprised to hear that Victorio, a highly respected police official in Zambales, had denied that I interviewed him. The duration of our conversation was registered in my mobile phone. The raid was done on a Friday but I filed my story on a Sunday. From Friday to Sunday morning, I tried but failed to reach Governor Magsaysay for comment. I stand by my story. There's no reason for me to apologize.

—ALLAN MACATUNO,
Inquirer correspondent

False prophets

GETTING caught up in the raging debate between the Catholic Church and population control advocates benefits both camps extremely.

Already, media and the public are being duped into reducing the debate to one of draconian state measures (population control) and withholding family planning options (exclusively natural family planning as far as the conservative Church is concerned).

Sadly, the draft Reproductive Health Care Act that was filed by Sen. Rodolfo Biazon (now as Senate Bill 1280) has been overlooked. This is more or less the same bill, which made it through committee deliberations in the 12th Congress and was the object of attack by the conservative Catholic hierarchy, including the President who aligned herself with the bishops.

The same bill lays down a holistic view of reproductive health care, establishes much needed services and does so all under a framework of the human right to a quality life.

This means families, couples, women and men will make the choices for themselves, equipped with an array of quality information as well as safe and effective options for family planning.

The bill also addresses the very serious problem of unsafe abortion by giving women access to family planning information, services and humane treatment in cases of post abortion complications.

If we were to look closely at the apparently "warring" parties of the conservative religious groups and the self proclaimed guardians of secularism who want to resort to extreme measures to control the population, it's easy to spot their common trait.

Both sides don't give a rat's ass for the respect and dignity of women's decision-making.

The population control advocates would have the state penalize women for getting pregnant by depriving them medical care, and the Catholic conservatives would have women consigned to multiple pregnancies not of their own free and informed choice.

Either way, they want to restrict women's options and not one of them is for the promotion and provision of a quality Reproductive Health Care System.

—CAROLINA S. RUIZ AUSTRIA,
executive director,
Womenlead Foundation Inc.,
45 Mapagkumbaba St.,
Sikatuna Village, Quezon City

Doctors, nurses lack basic skill to handle 'A' cases

From page A1

post-abortion patients.

The program's main components were the clinical management of post-abortion complications, counseling and linking with reproductive health services that the patients may need.

It would later make the trainees realize how erroneous their conduct toward post-abortion patients had been.

PMAC program

But the program had not even gotten off the ground when some groups started opposing it because of the implication of the word "abortion."

According to Dr. Honorata Catibog of the DOH Family Health Services, the groups were concerned that the program might result in "permissiveness" in handling the abortion problem.

Catibog said the health department had to stress that the program's focus was the handling of medical complications resulting from abortions. In short: "The abortion has already been done. What is now the role of the DOH?"

Certain adjustments had to be made. One was the program's name: from post-abortion care (the usual term in other countries), it was to be known as prevention and management of abortion and its complications (PMAC).

In May 2000, then Health Secretary Alberto Romualdez Jr. issued Administrative Order 45-B laying down a government PMAC policy.

The AO stated that women were entitled to "quality and humane" post-abortion care services by "competent, compassionate, objective and non-judgmental" healthcare workers in a "well-equipped institution."

At about that time, EngenderHealth, using a grant from the David and Lucile Packard Foundation, began implementing PMAC in eight hospitals in Metro Manila and the provinces in close coordination with the DOH.

The number of hospitals was later increased with additional funding from the US Agency for International Development (Usaid). By the end of 2003, EngenderHealth had trained several batches of healthcare staff in 17 hospitals, mostly government-run.

More guts

A number of medical institutions, including the Philippines' foremost maternity hospital, the Jose Fabella Memorial Hospital in Manila, were offered a slot in EngenderHealth's PMAC program.

But their administrators had some "reservations," mostly concerning the program's controversial nature, said Dr. Cynthia Garcia, who was in charge of the clinical training segment.

EngenderHealth looked elsewhere for a positive response. It found other institutions that were willing to participate, mostly in the rural areas.

"It seemed like those in the provinces had more guts," Garcia said.

The post-abortion counseling training served as an eye-opener for doctors, nurses and midwives.

"They realized that what they had been doing to the women was wrong," Garcia said.

"We pointed out to them that the women were actually victims of a system that did not address their needs, which made them resort to abortion.

"Some participants cried after they realized their faults."

No longer snooty

The training program produced dramatic results.

Garcia said the participants "lost their snootiness even with induced-abortion patients."

In an interview with the INQUIRER's Northern Luzon Bureau, Doctors Josefina Francisco and Evelyn Angeles, both of the Pangasinan Provincial Hospital, said they used to discriminate against post-abortion patients and dealt with them rather nastily.

After their PMAC training, they said, "we are kind, gentle and caring now."

"We give the same quality care to all of them," Francisco said, referring to women who had undergone abortion, whether induced or spontaneous.

A controversial component of PMAC is the use of manual vacuum aspiration (MVA) on post-abortion patients. *(See sidebar.)*

Although now acknowledged as the "procedure of choice" in the clinical management of post-abortion patients, MVA had not been used in the Philippines before PMAC was initiated.

EngenderHealth trained doctors on how to use MVA and supplied hospitals with kits.

Counseling

Things went well for the PMAC program.

Women needing treatment for complications like bleeding and infection were given the counseling they needed before, during and after the MVA procedure.

They were asked, in a compassionate manner, why they had an abortion, the aim being the identification of the proper service to which they could be referred. They were also asked about their reproductive goals.

If, as in most cases, a patient did not want to have a child at that time, she was referred to a family planning service. Women trying to have a baby yet whose conception always ended up in spontaneous abortion were referred to a fertility health service.

Victims of domestic violence were directed to the women and children's welfare desk. If a patient turned out to be at high risk of contracting a sexually transmitted infection, she was counseled, taught how to reduce the risk, and then referred for a workup.

"Counseling can do a lot because aside from preventing future abortions, other problems can be addressed," Garcia said.

No funding

The program included training those who had been trained in PMAC on how to echo their newly acquired expertise to other healthcare workers.

EngenderHealth started targeting higher goals, like integrating PMAC into the curriculums of medical, nursing and midwifery schools. It even started conducting workshops for some clinical instructors in nursing and midwifery.

But last December, EngenderHealth's funding from Usaid was not renewed. Its PMAC project was outbidded by the other health programs of other NGOs and the government.

With no funding, EngenderHealth's Philippine office was forced to close shop. No group took up the PMAC program.

The DOH made plans to expand PMAC training to other hospitals, but with a reduced health budget, it could not be implemented.

Still ongoing

But the DOH's Catibog hastened to stress that the PMAC program was not stopped.

"The services we started [under the EngenderHealth project] are still ongoing, especially in the pilot areas," she said.

Dr. Debbie Capuchino, also of the DOH, said PMAC training had been integrated into the other components of the government's reproductive health program.

According to informal feedback received by EngenderHealth and other NGOs, healthcare workers who received PMAC training continue to implement what they have learned. And most hospitals in the pilot areas still use the MVA, although they now have to buy their own kits.

But Dr. Junice Melgar, executive director of the NGO Likhaan, said some post-abortion patients had complained of being treated badly in a PMAC pilot hospital.

Apparently, Melgar said, it all depended on whether the doctor, nurse or midwife on duty had undergone PMAC training. *With a report from Yolanda Sotelo-Fuertes, PDI Northern Luzon Bureau*

The Pangasinan 'A' experience

By Yolanda Sotelo-Fuertes
PDI Northern Luzon Bureau

WHEN Victor Agbayani became governor of Pangasinan in 1998, he realized how serious a health problem abortion was in the province.

Cases of post-abortion complications ranked fifth in the admissions list of the Pangasinan Provincial Hospital in San Carlos City.

So when he learned that some hospitals were testing a program on the prevention and management of abortion and its complications (PMAC), Agbayani decided that Pangasinense women deserved this health service.

In an interview with the INQUIRER last month, Agbayani explained his interest in the PMAC program thus: "We are against abortion, but when you have abortion complication cases brought to your hospitals ... you have to do something about them.

"Women who have induced abortions can suffer complications that can affect their health. They can die. How can we discriminate against them [when] it is our responsibility to take care of their health?"

After convincing the US Agency for International Development (USAID) to provide funding, Pangasinan was able to implement the project in 2001. But it was renamed PAMPC—for prevention of abortion and management of post-abortion complications—to make it clear that it had nothing to do with the process of abortion itself.

Initially, the project involved only the Pangasinan Provincial Hospital in San Carlos and the Don Amadeo J. Perez Sr. Memorial District Hospital in Urdaneta City.

By the end of 2003, just before EngenderHealth's funding from USAID ran out, the program had started involving the local communities. Residents were being told to watch for signs of post-abortion complications among their women and to take the women to the hospital if they appeared at risk.

Agbayani said the program's hospital-based counseling was very important because it could dissuade women from resorting to another abortion.

"[F]amily planning actually prevents abortion. When a mother, or the parents, plan their families, they avoid unwanted pregnancies. So a family planning program is actually an abortion prevention program," he said.

Provincial population officer Luz Muego stressed that doctors were not forcing post-abortion women to accept a method.

"We just explain the methods to give them an informed choice," she said.

Pangasinan records have shown an increase in the number of family planning acceptors among post-abortion women. From only 123 (21 percent) acceptors in 2001, it rose to 359 (53 percent) in 2002, and to 659 (85 percent) in 2003.

Hospital administrators noticed something else. When they started implementing PAMPC, the number of post-abortion patients seeking medical help increased—from 585 in 2001 to 675 in 2002, and to 774 in 2003.

Some people frowned at this development. "They said the women were getting bolder and were resorting to more abortions because they were being treated kindly in the hospitals," said Dr. Cynthia Garcia, who was in charge of EngenderHealth's clinical management training component.

The increase was actually an indication of the women's growing trust in the healthcare workers, she said, adding:

"They now know that there's a hospital that can help them. This is why more of them are coming to the hospitals."

Perhaps the best indicator of the program's success in Pangasinan is the low number of "repeat abortees."

Dr. Josefina Francisco, an obstetrician at the Pangasinan Provincial Hospital, said that last year, only 10 of their post-abortion cases were "repeaters."

By the end of the year, funding for PAMPC will run out. But Pangasinan is determined to see the program through. *With a report from Stella O. Gonzales*

ELLEN attends to her laundry outside their shack in Pasay City. STELLA GONZALES

FAST FACTS

- Manual vacuum aspiration (MVA) is less painful and less invasive compared to dilation and curettage (D&C).
- The MVA kit can be reused up to 50 times. In the Philippines, it is sometimes reused up to 100 times to save on costs.
- The use of MVA for post-abortion complications can result in savings for the hospital. The procedure can be done in the emergency area, and the patient can be sent home an hour or two later.
- For a D&C, a patient will require anesthesia and will have to stay in the hospital for at least a night.
- MVA is viewed with suspicion by anti-abortion advocates because it can be used to induce abortion by people not trained in PMAC.
- The health department instituted stringent measures to ensure that the MVA kit would be used only in hospitals where doctors had been trained on its use for post-abortion patients only. MVA kits are kept in a secure place and can be used only upon the doctor's compliance with certain procedures.
- MVA kits can only be bought from the sole Philippine-accredited distributor.

Sources: Dr. Cynthia Garcia, Dr. Honorata Catibog, Dr. Junice Melgar

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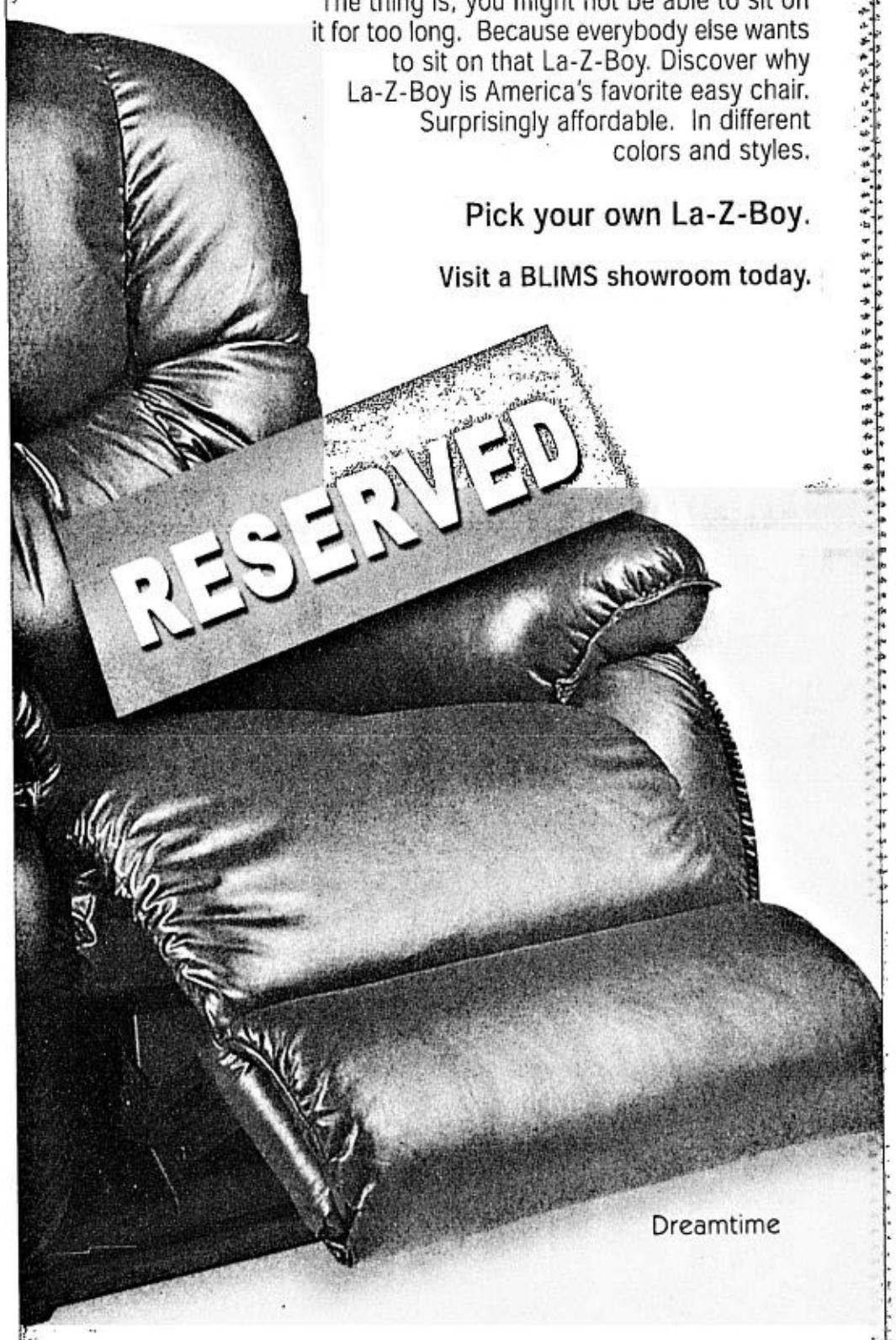

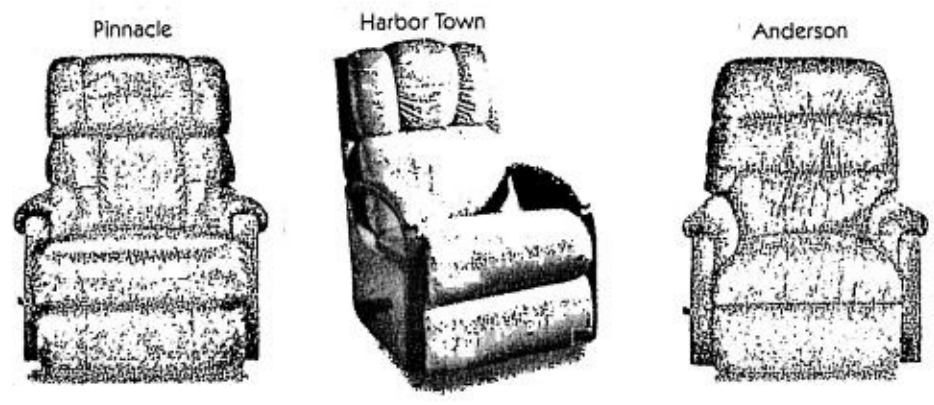

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Who's right: GMA says it's ₱1B, Pagcor says it's ₱3B

From page A1

that some of the funds may have gone directly to beneficiaries.

"But you have to ask the PMS (Presidential Management Staff) for the details on how the money was disbursed," he said.

Bunye and PMS chief Rigoberto Tiglao were contacted but had not responded as of press time.

Real value

The real value of the President's Social Fund has become an issue after legislators demanded that the President match her proposal for them to cut their 2005 Priority Development Assistance Fund (PDAF) by a parallel cut in her discretionary funds, particularly her Social and Intelligence Funds.

Majority members of the House of Representatives have voted to cut 40 percent of their PDAF, also known as congressional pork barrel, which the national government allots for each legislator to use for projects designed to impress their constituents.

At the Senate, a few senators have willingly surrendered their pork while others said they would make the cut only if the President also does so.

"Whatever amount the others would reduce in their pork barrel or development fund, I would also reduce the same amount with mine," the President has responded.

But Malacañang officials have been carefully shading the meaning of that statement.

No fixed formula

"We're not talking of a fixed formula or fixed figure. What we are saying is that the President, in principle, is willing to match the sacrifice that will be done by the legislature," said Bunye last Wednesday.

Budget Secretary Emilia Boncodin has said that the President would have less to give out for dole-outs and donations if her Social Fund were to be slashed.

Boncodin also said that it was for Congress to decide whether to cut or strike out the President's Intelligence Fund.

With her P1.2 billion Intelligence Fund added to the Social Fund, the President has at her disposal more than P2 billion in discretionary funds each year.

The disbursement of the funds is discretionary, meaning the President can allocate them without congressional approval and without having to submit to government auditing procedures.

Discretionary fund

In other words, the President can spend the money as she wishes. In practice, the money from the Social Fund goes to the President's charitable, humanitarian and welfare activities while the Intelligence Fund is spent for intelligence activities.

Senators from administration and opposition camps were yesterday questioning why the budget of Pagcor was not included in the proposed General Appropriations Act of 2005, the national budget submitted by Malacañang.

"What seems to be the reason?" asked Sen. Joker Arroyo who noted that Pagcor was the main source of the President's Social Fund.

Pagcor allocates five percent of its annual income to the President's Social Fund. It gave P1.15 billion in 2001, P1.1 billion in 2002, and P475 million in 2003, or an average of P908 million a year, to the fund, according to the firm's published financial records.

Arroyo, who has demanded that the President give up her "gargantuan" pork barrel, said the President's pork barrel could even be more.

"They are hidden somewhere in the GAA," he said.

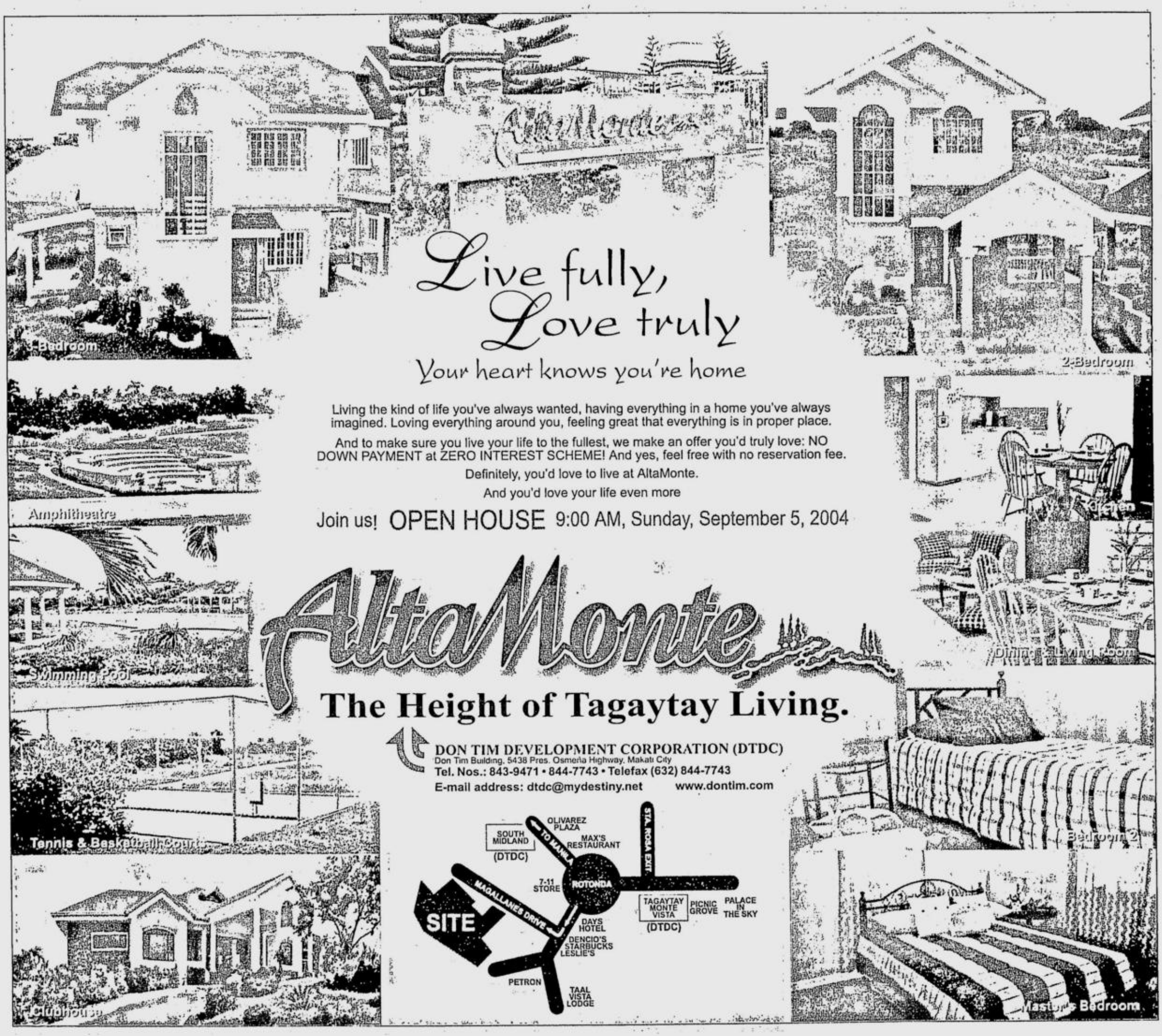
Arroyo said it was imperative for Malacañang to be transparent about Pagcor's operations.

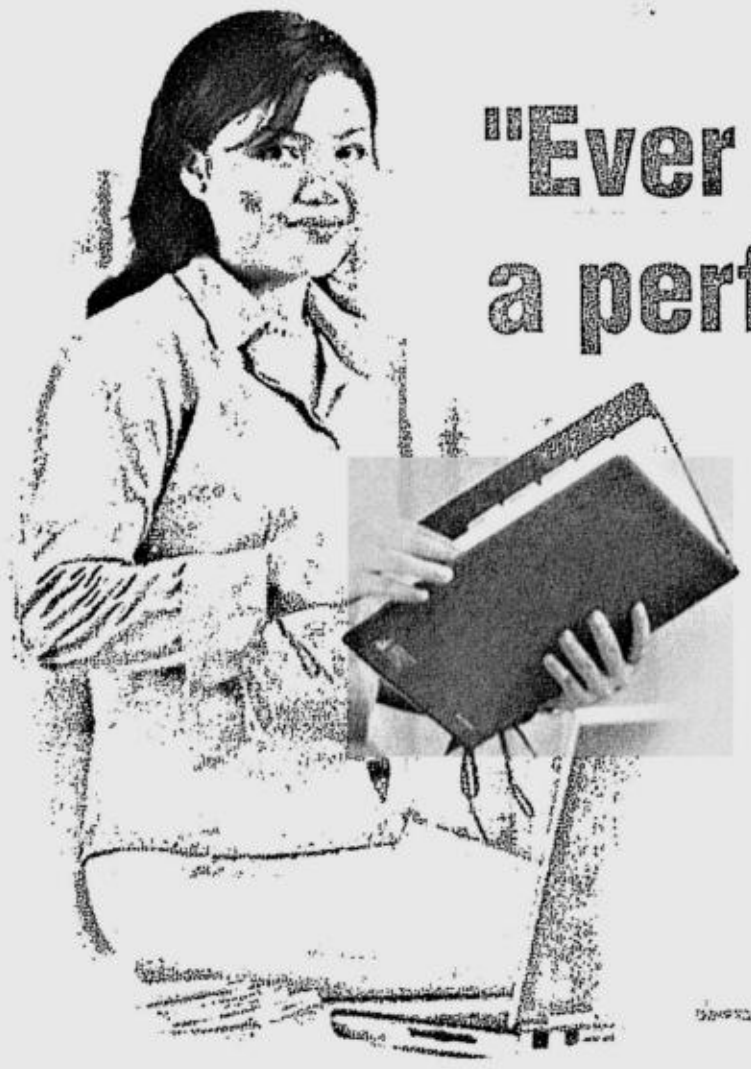
Sen. Ralph Recto, chair of the Senate ways and means committee, said the absence of Pagcor's proposed budget in the GAA could be deliberate so that Pagcor's profits and expenditures for the year, which are usually disclosed in the GAA, are hidden from congressional scrutiny.

Suspicious

Sen. Edgardo Angara and Sen. Aquilino Pimentel Jr. found this suspicious as the Constitution mandates that government deposit all its revenues to the National Treasury before they can be allocated or disbursed.

Pimentel wants government to revert back to the pre-martial law practice of line budgeting to stop the abuse of pork barrel funds. He said all revenues and funds accruing to the national government should go to the National Treasury and should be subject to the scrutiny of Congress.





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Call to 117 saves woman trader from abduction

CAMP VICENTE LIM, Laguna—Just two days after police officials decided to charge every call and text messages sent to Patrol 117, the emergency number proved that it's worth every single centavo.

A businesswoman was successfully rescued from her abductor just before dawn Thursday after her sister reported the abduction to Patrol 117, police said yesterday.

Supt. Manuel Abu, town police chief, said they received a message from Patrol 117 informing them that bar owner Everlyn Bautista, 45, a resident of Barangay Onse, had just been abducted by her driver Roel Masibay, 27, along Apacible Avenue in Barangay Wawa, Nasugbu town in Batangas at about 2 a.m.

Abu said the victim called Masibay to pick her up from the Street Bar, a videoke bar which she owned.

As soon as Bautista boarded her Honda Accord (EFC-777), the suspect pointed a kichen knife at her and threatened to stab her if she would not give him money.

Fortunately, the victim was able to send a text message to her sister Carmela who then called Patrol 117 and reported the incident.

Upon receiving the 117 report, Abu alarmed other police stations and ordered checkpoints set up. *Marlon Ramos, Southern Luzon*

Aglipay apologizes for wrong info on Damalerio slay case

By Christian V. Esguerra and Philip Tubeza

PHILIPPINE National Police chief Edgar Aglipay yesterday apologized for erroneously announcing that his men had already arrested the gunman of broadcaster Edgar Damalerio, one of 55 media practitioners whose murders remain unsolved.

"It was a mistake. I'm taking full responsibility for it. I apologize to the media and the National Union of Journalists of the Philippines," Aglipay told reporters in a press conference.

The truth was PO1 Guillermo Wapile remains at large. It's only his wife who's now under the custody of Chief Supt. Servando Hizon, Western Mindanao police director, according to Aglipay.

Aglipay made the erroneous announcement during a Senate inquiry on the recent spate of murders victimizing journalists last Wednesday. When asked about the status of the Wapile manhunt, he phoned Hizon but apparently misunderstood the regional commander.

Aglipay yesterday urged field commanders to make a similar gesture of humility whenever they made a mistake.

Getting Wapile, an intelligence officer based in Pagadian, has been the battlecry of the national press following his escape from the city prison on Jan. 27, 2003. He was jailed for killing Damalerio on May 13, 2004.

The escape subsequently cost his superior, Supt. Asuri Hawani, his post.

While admitting he had made a mistake, Aglipay also vowed to solve the cases of all murdered newsmen since 1984. The PNP listed 49 cases while the NUJP has 55.

Also included in Aglipay's to-do list are about 200,000 fugitives he had ordered all PNP units to arrest in the coming months.

Each police station has been required to arrest at least five wanted persons in a month, on top of dismantling five local syndicates on the same period.

Since Aglipay assumed office last Aug. 23, the Directorate for Intelligence and Detective Management has been rushing a master list of all unsolved cases and fugitives nationwide.

By the time the list is completed, Supt. Dennis Siervo, DIDM research unit chief, said information would be enough to fill out at least "13 reams of bond papers."

A compressed list will be e-mailed to all police units nationwide by next week, he said.

Justice Secretary Raul Gonzalez assured the safety of the family of slain Pagadian journalist Edgar Damalerio and the witnesses in the case after he ordered a review of their exclusion from the government's Witness Protection Program.

Gonzalez said he ordered the review after officials of the National Union of Journalists of the Philippines informed him about the status of the case at the DOJ yesterday.

"I ordered the review of (their exclusion from) the WPP due to the very clear threats to (Damalerio's) widow," Gonzalez said.

Damalerio's wife, Gemma, their child, and witnesses Adgar Amoro and Edgar Ongue were dropped from the WPP after the murder case was archived. The court archived it after Wapile escaped.

Damalerio's family and the witnesses now fear for their lives after they were removed from the WPP. Primary witness Ongue is now in hiding while Gemma has lost the monthly stipend of P5,000, which she used to pay for her security escorts.

Atienza reiterates call for return of police control to LGUs

THE HEAD of one of the biggest groups of mayors in the country yesterday lauded Sen. Juan Ponce Enrile for supporting a return to local government control of police forces and also for admitting that centralizing the police during martial law was a mistake.

Manila Mayor Lito Atienza said all LGUs in the country would benefit greatly from returning to them power and control over the police force.

"We commend Senator Enrile for sharing our position that there should be a two-tiered police system with local police forces under the control of local chief executives to handle peace and order and a national police to address national security matters," said Atienza in a news release.

Enrile, defense minister during martial law, made his call for a two-tiered police system during a Senate hearing on the killings of journalists.

Atienza said such killings could be solved quicker if police control were in the hands of local executives.

"We hope that our national leaders would heed the call for the decentralization of the police," said Atienza, who heads the Metro Manila Mayors League.

Baguio scraps beauty tilt for 'super' moms

By Desiree Caluza
PDI Northern Luzon Bureau

BAGUIO CITY—After city officials scrapped the Ms Baguio beauty pageant as one of the city's 95th founding anniversary activities, they planned to launch this month a contest dubbed as "Super Mothers" to recognize outstanding mothers and professionals.

Councilor Pinky Rondez, a former beauty queen here, introduced a resolution recognizing women achievers in the city instead of recognizing them through their physical assets.

"The women of Baguio have now evolved and been empowered. We want to recognize someone who has a holistic view to her womanhood. We want the city to adopt (an ordinance) that would uplift the dignity and protect the morality of women," Rondez told the INQUIRER.

Rondez said the move aims to abolish the institutionalizing of Ms Baguio pageant which has become part of the city government's activities every year.

For the first time in three years, women activists here were happy after the city government stopped the sponsorship of the beauty pageant.

Leonora Membrot, chair of the women's group Innabuyog-Gabriela which had been protesting the staging of the beauty pageant, said the city government had finally realized that the beauty contest "only exploited and commodified women."

"We were glad that we were heard. This experience should teach us not to look at women based on their (physical appearances), but on their inner strength and on how they could defend themselves from commercialization," Membrot said.

Rondez said the scrapping of the pageant was a big step toward recognizing the city government as "gender sensitive."

Vice Mayor Peter Rey Bautista said the city government was not interested in sponsoring the beauty pageant which he described as a "showcase of extravagance."

The scrapping of the pageant, however, has divided the city council.

In a privilege speech last week at the city council, Councilor Elmer Datuin said he was surprised why the city government scrapped the pageant, saying the contest was "already an institution."

"Ms. Baguio was scrapped due to allegedly widespread perception that it served to exploit, rather than dignify our womenfolk. This reasoning, I find utterly surprising," Datuin said.

Gov says IRA cut a threat to peace

KIDAPAWAN CITY—North Cotabato Gov. Emmanuel Piñol has warned that reducing the Internal Revenue Allotment (IRA) or withholding its release would set back the government's peace and development efforts in war torn areas of Mindanao.

"The moment you touch the budget of the municipalities especially in Mindanao, where we are competing with rebel groups in getting the attention and trust of the people, it's going to paralyze us," Piñol said.

LGUs are dependent on the IRA for the implementation of various projects.

"It wouldnt be a wise move. It will lead to the deterioration of peace and order in Mindanao. Without services, how do you think can we convince the people in areas where the New Peoples Army and the Moro Islamic Liberation Front (MILF) are operating to trust the government more?" Piñol asked.

North Cotabato is one of several Mindanao areas badly affected by years of conflict between the government and Moro rebels.

"North Cotabato and other conflict affected areas will really be affected by any cut in the budget because the moment that something is missing in the pie, or the pie is reduced, it will greatly affect the performance of the province," Piñol said.

He said the national government should instead look for alternative sources of funds to arrest the growing deficit.

In Davao City, an urban poor group said President Macapagal-Arroyo's insincerity about national recovery through austerity was uncovered by her trip to China. *Jeffrey Tupas, PDI Mindanao Bureau*

Post office bears brunt of cost-cutting measures

By Jhunnex Napallacan
PDI Visayas Bureau

CEBU CITY—Even before the issuance of the administrative order for mandatory cost cutting measures, some government agencies and corporations have already implemented such measures because of financial difficulties.

One of them is the Philippine Postal Corp. (Philpost), which suffered loses for years now because of the existence of the new technology including cellular phones.

Josephine Layco, information officer of the Philpost in Central Visayas, said Philpost has even stopped hiring additional employees to fill up vacancies for various posts because of lack of funds.

As a result, some officials are handling two or three functions.

Layco, for example, is not just Philpost's regional information officer but also the postmaster for the post office at the city hall of Mandaue City.

Layco said most municipal postmasters in the provinces of Central Visayas—Cebu, Negros Oriental, Siquijor and Bohol—even double up as mailmen who personally deliver letters to households because most post offices in the towns only have one personnel.

Layco said the gasoline allowance for their mailmen in the cities have also remained at P700.

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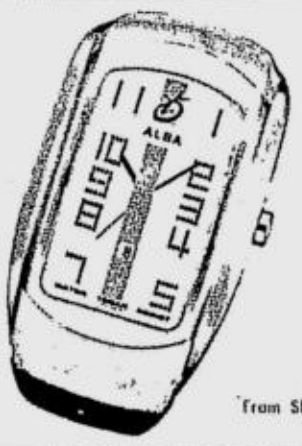

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Airport cop returns bag with ₱470,000

ZAMBOANGA CITY—Aviation policeman PO2 Joseph de la Cruz could have been P470,000 richer but he opted to remain poor and honest.

Aviation Security Group chief Senior Supt. Ivar Padao said De la Cruz, 32, supervisor of the city airport's check-in counter, on Wednesday morning turned over a black videocam bag containing the money.

It turned out that the bag was owned by retired 2Lt. Frederick Villamor, a resident of Armour Village in Barangay Upper Calarian here.

De la Cruz told the INQUIRER that he saw the bag stuck inside the airport's X-ray machine roller while he was preparing the machine for the passengers of an early morning Philippine Airlines flight bound for Manila.

"Maybe because of the rush or too many baggages, the passenger forgot one," said De la Cruz.

Surprise

While checking its contents, De la Cruz was surprised to see that aside from documents, it contained some cash.

He immediately reported the recovery of the bag to Padao.

Villamor, upon receiving the recovered bag, tried to give De la Cruz an undisclosed amount as a reward for the find. De la Cruz said he turned it down, saying, "I was just doing my duty, sir."

Chief Supt. Servando Hizon, police chief for Western Mindanao, said De la Cruz will be given a commendation and recognition on Monday. *Julie Alipala, PDI Mindanao Bureau*

'Lumad' leader says Army arming tribes

CAGAYAN DE ORO CITY—A *lumad* leader in Agusan del Sur accused the military of arming tribespeople and then forcing them to surrender as communist rebels.

Datu Luay-Luay of the Banwaon tribe in Barangay Balit in San Luis, Agusan del Sur, said this practice violates *lumad* rights.

"I am just wondering why is it that the military arms the male *lumad* including the old ones in our area and force them to surrender as members of the New People's Army? I think our basic rights are being violated but what can we do when we are suppressed? Where can we file our complaints on these matters?" Datu Luay-Luay said during the recent Mindanao Peace Forum here.

Lt. Col. Johnny Macanas of the Army's 29th Infantry Battalion based in Agusan del Sur, admitted that the military was indeed arming tribespeople, who had surrendered to the military.

He said this was being done to ensure they would not be harassed by the NPA.

But Macanas said they were not arming the *lumad* to force them to surrender as rebels.

"It's not true. We are winning the war against the NPA. So this is just a propaganda," he said.

Datu Luay-Luay said 74-year-old tribal leader Datu Making Badbaran was forced to carry an M-16 rifle.

He said because of old age, Datu Making pleaded that the M-16 be changed to Carbine because he could not bear the weight of the rifle.

Datu Luay also decried the military's alleged penchant for tagging *lumad* as rebels.

"I am hurt by what they did. The NPAs don't have houses and they do not vote. But, what can we do? We are at the mercy of the military," he said.

Luis Jalandoni, chair of the National Democratic Front peace panel, urged Datu Luay-Luay to file his complaint at the Joint Monitoring Committee Secretariat.

Sr. Mary John Dumaog, head of the Religious of the Good Shepherds Tribal Filipino Ministry in San Luis, said the allegations require a congressional inquiry.

She said the government spends P10,000 for every surrendered firearm and it was possible some military officials get the money through fake surrenderees. *Grace Cantal-Albasin, PDI Mindanao Bureau*

Ex-cop tagged killer of human rights leader

DAVAO CITY—Mayor Rodrigo Duterte said the former policeman arrested during a drug bust operation here could be the same man who shot dead human rights leader Rashid Manahan on Aug. 24.

Police said they were still waiting for witnesses to show up so they could present Dennis Fernando for identification.

Chief Insp. Matthew Baccay, San Pedro police chief, said Fernando, 37, looks similar to the gunman in the Manahan slay case, based on a sketch of the killer.

Several persons, including Dr. Nymia Simbulan of the Philippine Human Rights Information Center (PhilRights), saw the gunman.

Manahan was in the forefront of the crusade against summary executions here.

On the day he was killed, Manahan was hosting a forum on the executions.

"The inside information (is) that he might be one of those involved in the shooting based on the sketch," Duterte said on Wednesday.

Fernando had denied involvement in the Manahan murder saying he did not know the victim.

Police sources told the INQUIRER that Fernando became a gun-for-hire after leaving the service.

Duterte said police would also look into Manahan's personal life to establish the possible motive for his killing.

"I would not want to intrude in the privacy of other persons but since this is a criminal investigation, it opens up everything," he said.

Baccay said police have yet to establish a case against Fernando in connection with Manahan's death. *Anthony Allada, PDI Mindanao Bureau*

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INQ TV
ABC Tuwing Huwebes, 8pm
I-text ang inyong "fearless view" sa 2910. Pipiliin namin ang pinakamagaling na sagot. Ang premyo linggo-linggo: Isang 21" color TV set!
I-type: INQTV <ang inyong sagot>, <buong pangalan>, <siyudad o probinsiya>, tapos ipadala sa 2910. Cut-off time: WEDNESDAY, 6 PM. Winner will be identified during the inqTV program: Thursday, 8pm, on ABC.
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OCW sa Iraq: Dapat na bang alisin ang ban?
Congrats to to Niño dela Cruz, ng Novaliches! Nanalo ka ng 21" Sony color TV!
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INQBOX
Question of the Week
With over 70 provincial journalists killed in the Philippines since 1986, what do you think should be done to finally end the killings?
Texters hus messages R printd in Tuesday's INQBOX *wil each receiv a Guyito stuffd toy!* Ü
Key in: inquirer news name/city/message.
Text your answers to 2207 (Globe) or 283 (Smart).
(Maximum of 160 characters)

Case vs gov attackers lowered from attempted murder to 'disturbance'

By Chito A. Fuentes
PDI Visayas Bureau

TAGBILARAN CITY—Instead of attempted murder, the prosecutor handling the failed ambush on Gov. Erico Aumentado last February decided to recommend that the complaint against the two suspects be downgraded to serious public disturbance.

Prosecutor Bebiana Bautista, in her five-page resolution, said she recommended the filing of a lesser crime because it was "obvious there was no intent to kill" on the part of respondents Jamaal James Calipayan and Jessilou Quintas.

Calipayan and Quintas were among those initially accused of five counts of attempted murder in connection with the failed ambush on Aumentado last February.

Aumentado and four others were unscathed when four men fired handguns into the governor's green Pajero at noon of Feb. 13.

With Aumentado inside the Pajero at the time were Primitivo Caga, Rufino Aumentado, Pableo Dabalos and PO3 Rodolfo Manamtam.

The New People's Army (NPA) through Central Visayas spokesman Silvino Clamucha admitted the ambush but insisted it was only meant to send a warning and that "there was no intention" to kill Aumentado.

Clamucha, who was also named in the complaint, died in a clash with government troops last March 6.

Both Quintas and Calipayan denied participation in the ambush. The resolution noted that Quintas did not appear in all four scheduled sessions in the preliminary investigation while Calipayan appeared only on the fourth scheduled session.

Calipayan said he is a resident of Mandaue City and was working as a youth volunteer and campaign staffer of a congressional candidate in Cebu City.

On the other hand, Quintas said he helped make streamers for a party-list organization at the time.

CRAWLERS
BEN MOSES EBREO/PDI NORTHERN LUZON BUREAU
Two boys peddle live overgrown lizards for P300 each on a portion of the national highway in Lallo town in Cagayan province. Lizards are a delicacy in some parts of the country.

ROUNDUP

Rice overpricing

BUTUAN CITY—The National Food Authority-Caraga office has allegedly failed to act on the rampant overpricing of government-controlled grains being sold at markets here. For almost two months now, big rice traders and NFA-accredited stalls here have been selling NFA rice at the commercial prices that range from P21.50 to P22 per kilogram or about P1,100 per sack. "Its original price is only P16 per kg. This is not good, they want us not to eat anymore," said Helen Paler, a mother of six who relies on the NFA rice for her family's daily staple. The NFA is mandated to provide affordable and quality rice to the public. But Allan Borja, NFA-Caraga director, insisted that the price of the NFA rice remained pegged at P16 per kg or P750 per sack.

Franklin Caliguid, PDI Mindanao Bureau

Goby banned in Cagayan

TUGUEGARAO CITY—Agriculture and fishery officials have banned the gathering, marketing and eating of goby fish (**Gobius Criniger**) locally known as *bunog* after three children in Aparri town died when they ate the fish. The Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources in Cagayan Valley said toxin analysis showed that goby, which was caught by the children in the Cagayan River, was positive for poisonous substances. The BFAR said the symptoms of goby fish poisoning are numbness of the lips and tongue, paralysis, difficulty in breathing and drop in blood pressure.

Estanislao Caldez, PDI Northern Luzon Bureau

Bicol execs in Intramuros

LEGAZPI CITY—Local government executives and regional heads of national line agencies in Bicol will showcase the best of outfits made of "pinukpok" or abaca silk in a fashion show dubbed "Kasal Bikolnon" today during the grand opening of the Gayon Bicol Fiesta sa Intramuros in Manila. The local executives include Albay Gov. Fernando Gonzales, Legazpi City Mayor Noel Rosal, and Guinobatan Mayor Juan Garcia, Bicol Mayors' League president. "Kasal Bikolnon" is a joint presentation of the Department of Labor and Employment Bicol office and the Bicol Regional Development Council, their contribution to the annual project of the Department of Tourism Bicol field office. "Pinukpok" is being produced by the Banquerohan Resettlement Site Neighborhood Association as its core enterprise under the Poverty Free Zone Program of Dole-Bicol.

Rural water supply

CITY OF CALAPAN—Batch I of the Rural Water Supply and Sanitation Project V in Oriental Mindoro, amounting to P8.1 million, is set for completion this September, according to Mely Catapang, project development officer of the Provincial Planning and Development Office. Representantives from the Japan Bank for International Cooperation, which funded the project, visited the province recently to monitor the project and discuss developments with local officials. Bidding was ongoing for Batch II amounting to P10 million, Catapang said.

Madonna Virola, PDI Southern Luzon Bureau

Agrarian reform zone

CITY OF CALAPAN—A resolution endorsing the Integrated Development Plan 2004-2007 Kalahi Agrarian Reform Zone has been approved by the Oriental Mindoro Provincial Development Council. The plan will be submitted to the Mimaropa Regional Development Council and the secretary of the Department of Agrarian Reform. It will benefit 1,000 agrarian reform beneficiaries in Pinamalayan, Gloria, Bansud and Bongabong towns through land-tenure improvement, farm-to-market roads, communal irrigation, potable water system and other infrastructure programs. Some P280 million will come from the agrarian reform fund, foreign grants and local government unit counterpart funds.

Madonna Virola, PDI Southern Luzon Bureau

Defensor orders Biñan dump closed

By Marlon Ramos
PDI Southern Luzon Bureau

BIÑAN, Laguna—Newly installed Environment Secretary Michael Defensor, together with several regional officers of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources, on Thursday ordered the temporary closure of a dump in Barangay Timbao here.

Defensor said the ETSAW Consultancy and Construction of Environmental Technologies (ECCE) had violated at least four clauses of the environment clearance certificate (ECC) issued to it last year.

He handed the cease-and-desist order, signed by DENR Calabarzon chief Luciano Hornilla, to ECCE president Victor Rojo.

Defensor said he issued the notice of violation after a group of inspectors, headed by Hornilla, went to the area on Wednesday and found that ECCE had been "transporting and processing" hazardous wastes without permit from the department.

DENR also found that ECCE had been operating "various air pollution installations without permit to operate."

He ordered the firm to pay P200,000 as penalty. "There are [pieces of evidence] that there are toxic chemicals, sulphuric acids and contaminated (elements) around the facility. This is very alarming since there are bodies of water around the area," Defensor told reporters here.

The inspection came after several village residents complained that the company had been dumping "poisonous chemicals."

The 5,000-square-meter facility is in the middle of a rice farm, some 8 km from the main road and near Carmona town in Cavite.

An irrigation canal runs just beside the main building. At least two small open dumps are also found near it.

Rojo denied his firm operated a dump.

"This is not a dump. This is a recycling facility. We use plastics and other waste materials into construction materials and other products," he said.

He said fences around the area and hollow blocks used in constructing the building were made from shredded plastics.

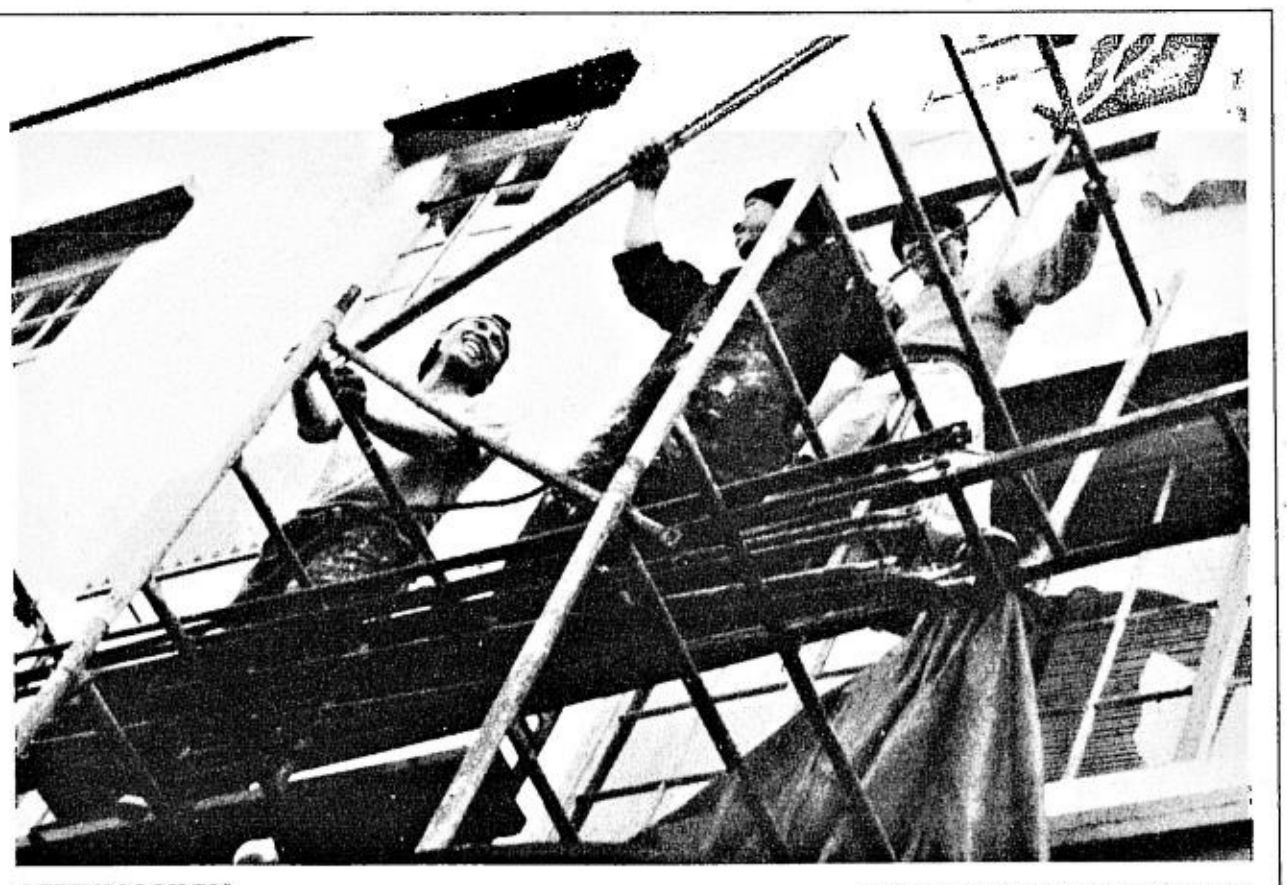
"In legal terms, the wastes here are not garbage but raw materials," he said.

Deadly and contaminated sludge, Hornilla said, also abound in the facility.

He said they also found containers with sulphuric acid and contaminated drug containers.

"They are not authorized to handle hazardous wastes because that would demand a different process," Hornilla told the INQUIRER.

But Austrian Harald Kremnitz, ECCE consultant, said they only use the chemicals in disinfecting the wastes they use in making construction materials.



GETTING HIGH
VINCENT CABREZA/PDI NORTHERN LUZON BUREAU
Window cleaners defy gravity and risk life and limb to keep the buildings of Baguio City looking clean. The cleaners are in demand these days as building owners take advantage of frequent rains to save on water in cleaning their facades.

Tarlac council to mediate in Luisita labor row

TARLAC CITY—To stem the unrest inside the Cojuangco-family owned Hacienda Luisita following the layoff of close to 300 permanent and seasonal farm workers, the city council has decided to mediate in the labor row between management and workers.

About 1,000 Luisita workers staged a rally on Monday to protest what they described as the arbitrary retrenchment of the workers, including the president and nine other officers of the United Luisita Workers' Union (ULWU).

The workers said the layoff deprived them of their right to enjoy the full benefits of the Comprehensive Agrarian Reform Law (CARL) but Hacienda Luisita Inc. (HLI) management insisted it was purely a business decision and not a labor issue.

In a resolution approved on Wednesday, the city council said the layoff "created an atmosphere of unrest in the communities comprising the Hacienda Luisita."

By mediating in the issue, the council said it "could help in preventing social unrest in Hacienda Luisita."

Councilor Abel Ladera, chair of the council's committee on labor and employment, said "the disappointment and anger that the residents in Hacienda Luisita are harboring over the issue are at a boiling point."

Describing the drama of the Monday rally, Ladera said: "While union leaders kept on cautioning the marchers to keep calm and not to provoke violence, the marchers removed the barbed wire along the Mapalacsiao Road going to the administration office with their bare hands."

In a letter Aug. 30, the ULWU sought the assistance of the city council in returning the laid off workers to their jobs.

The letter said the company's decision to retrench workers was "unjust and unfair." Thirty percent of HLI is owned by CARL beneficiaries.

Russell Arador, PDI Central Luzon Desk

Drug suspect slain as she emerged from court

CAMP VICENTE LIM, Laguna—Two unidentified gunmen shot dead a middle-aged woman who was listed as the No. 4 most wanted drug dealer in Batangas province.

Mary Jane Endozo, 33, a resident of Barangay 4 in Tanauan City, was shot as she emerged from a court hearing in the town, police said yesterday.

Senior Supt. Francisco Montenegro, Batangas police chief, said Endozo, 33, had just attended a hearing at around 10:30 a.m. at the Tanauan City's Hall of Justice in Barangay Dos when two assailants on board a motorcycle opened fire at her.

Montenegro said the victim died on the spot after suffering at least four gunshot wounds in the body.

She was gunned down exactly where Judge Voltaire Rosales was shot dead also by motorcycle-riding men a few months ago.

Although the police have yet to ascertain the motive for the killing of Endozo, they said the victim's connection with the illegal drugs syndicate could have been behind her death.

Police added that Endozo's husband, also a suspected drug dealer, was likewise ambushed a few years back.

The gangland-style execution of Endozo is similar to the executions of drug suspects in Davao City, which human rights groups have now tagged as the summary execution capital of the Philippines. *Marlon Ramos, PDI Southern Luzon Bureau*

GenSan fishing firm to sue 10 crewmen for mutiny

GENERAL SANTOS CITY—A fishing company here vowed to file charges of mutiny and robbery against its 10 workers for hijacking eight fishing vessels off Papua New Guinea.

Renato Tampac, legal counsel of the RD Group of Companies, told reporters here that they are now preparing charges against the fishing crew.

The fishing workers, protesting unpaid salaries and benefits, took over the fishing vessels from Aug. 24-29 and cut off communications with the company's headquarters in Vidar in Madang, Papua New Guinea.

Tampac said the management tried but failed in its attempt to dialogue with the mutineers.

The workers insisted that the company negotiate with the International Transportation Workers' Federation (ITF), but the company management refused to recognize ITF, claiming it has no legal personality under Philippine laws.

The workers were also demanding that they be treated like overseas workers and be treated humanely.

However, the company's legal counsel debunked the demands, claiming the provision of the fisheries code of the Philippines was clear on this issue.

Article II, Sect. 32 of the fisheries code states that fishing workers on board Philippine registered fishing vessels conducting activities beyond the country's territorial waters are not considered overseas Filipino workers.

Renne Subido, RD vice president for corporate affairs, said their vessels were not merchant marine but fishing vessels operating in the waters of Papua New Guinea.

"These vessels are owned by Philippine-registered companies and are registered and covered by the Philippine Fisheries Code of 1998," Subido said.

He said that they gave the workers enough time to settle the problem peacefully with the company, but their efforts were ignored.

"They did not just commit the crimes against the company but also against the state," Subido said.

The company, he said, lost $100,000 a day or a total of about $500,000 during the five-day mutiny.

About 150 fishing workers were aboard the eight fishing vessels, but Subido said they learned that only 10 planned the hijacking.

The fishing vessels are now back at the Vidar Port after the government of Papua New Guinea exerted efforts to settle the problem peacefully. The workers are kept in custody of the Philippine embassy.

Aquiles Zonio, PDI Mindanao Bureau

INQUIRER Visayas

E-mail: inq_cebu@inquirer.com.ph

Editor Jun Bandayrel
Bureau Chief Edralyn L. Benedicto

Fight continues to save Samar's forest

By Vicente S. Labro
Tacloban City

THE FIRST anniversary of the declaration of the Samar Island Natural Park (SINP) as a protected area may have gone unnoticed, but the renewed call to protect the island's remaining natural resources still reverberates throughout the three Samar provinces.

"The one-year anniversary is to me a reminder especially to Samareños that we are blessed with natural resources," said Bishop Jose S. Palma of the Diocese of Calbayog.

Bishop Palma—together with his counterpart in Northern Samar, Bishop Angel Hobayan, and in Eastern Samar, Bishop Leonardo Medroso, and some concerned Samareños—has been spearheading the move to protect and conserve Samar's diverse biological resources.

As the SINP marked its first anniversary, Bishop Palma has called on the people to be vigilant, saying that "miners are there to find ways to extract our minerals."

The bishop was referring to reports that personnel of a mining firm were seen in San Jose de Buan, an interior town of Samar, reportedly to conduct mining exploration in the area.

Even before President Macapagal-Arroyo signed the declaration of the SINP on Aug. 13, 2003, there was already a conflict between those supporting the SINP and those with mining claims in the area.

When the SINP was proclaimed, there already existed in the area a 230,791.5-hectare Bauxite Mining Reservation, which was established under Presidential Proclamation No. 1615 dated Feb. 4, 1977. About 55 percent (119,200 hectares) of the reservation overlaps with the SINP.

Also, the Department of Environment and Natural Resources has so far awarded two Mineral Production Sharing Agreements (MPSAs) to mining firms. These were issued to the Alumina Mining Philippines Inc. for an area covering 6,694.05 hectares in Motiong, Jose de Buan and Paranas, all Samar towns, and to the Bauxite Resources Inc., for an area covering 5,519.01 hectares in Matuguinao, Gandara, San Jose de Buan and San Jorge in Samar.

LUSH vegetation nearly covers the Calbiga Caves, which is inside the area of jurisdiction of the Samar Island Natural Park. VEN LABRO

Bauxite Resources and Alumina Mining filed their mining applications at the DENR's Mines and Geoscience Bureau regional office here on May 9, 2002. The environment secretary signed their MPSAs on Dec. 4, 2002.

Preservation efforts

Efforts to protect Samar island's remaining natural resources were started in the late 1980s, spearheaded by some homegrown environmentalists.

In 1989, President Corazon Aquino declared a logging moratorium in the island of Samar after floods and landslides killed nearly 100 persons and destroyed P100-million worth of crops. Rapid forest destruction was blamed for the catastrophe.

On Feb. 20, 1996, then President Fidel V. Ramos issued Proclamation No. 744, declaring the rainforests of Samar Island as a forest reserve. The Samar Island Forest Reserve covers a total area of 360,000 hectares.

Then, on July 1, 2001, the Samar Island Biodiversity Project (SIBP) was launched by the DENR in the island, with the United Nations Development Program (UNDP)-Global Environment Facility allocating $27 million for the eight-year project. The SIBP provided the legal and development framework for the establishment of the SINP.

The SINP covers 37 municipalities of the provinces of Samar, Eastern Samar and Northern Samar and the island's lone city, Calbayog City. It aims to conserve biodiversity in Samar Island and to reduce poverty in the upland communities.

In her memorandum dated March 11, 2003, to the President, Environment Secretary Elisea G. Gozun said that Samar Island "has the largest remaining unfragmented tract of lowland tropical rainforests of about 360,000 hectares" and that it is "among the 18 centers of plant diversity in the country with 2,400 species of flowering plants."

Gozun added that of the plant species in Samar Island, 406 can be found only in the country and these included some threatened trees.

The island, she said, also "has 197 bird species, of which 50 can be found only in the Philippines and categorized as highly threatened," including the Philippine Eagle. Samar Island also has 39 species of mammals.

"For the past 50 years, over 60 percent of the island's original forests have been lost. The remaining forest accounts for only 10 percent of total land area," she said.

Logging, mining ban

Maybe it was because of their knowledge of the island's rich natural resources that hundreds of Samareños, coming from different parts of the islands, held a save-the-environment caravan on Aug. 8, 2003, that culminated in Catbalogan, Samar.

Maybe it is because of the people's sad experiences with logging and mining operations in the island that they are now "overprotective" of the environment.

Several logging firms and some mining companies had operated in Samar Island in the past. But when these big corporations stopped their operations, the people found their lives hardly improved and their natural resources depleted.

In September last year, the provincial board of Samar passed an ordinance suspending large-scale operations in the province for 50 years. The ordinance aims to "prevent further degradation, pollution and contamination of the river and water systems of Samar and its neighboring area, and to stem the wanton destruction of the forest resources of Samar province."

The following month, the provincial board of Eastern Samar imposed an indefinite moratorium on large-scale mining and logging operations in that province.

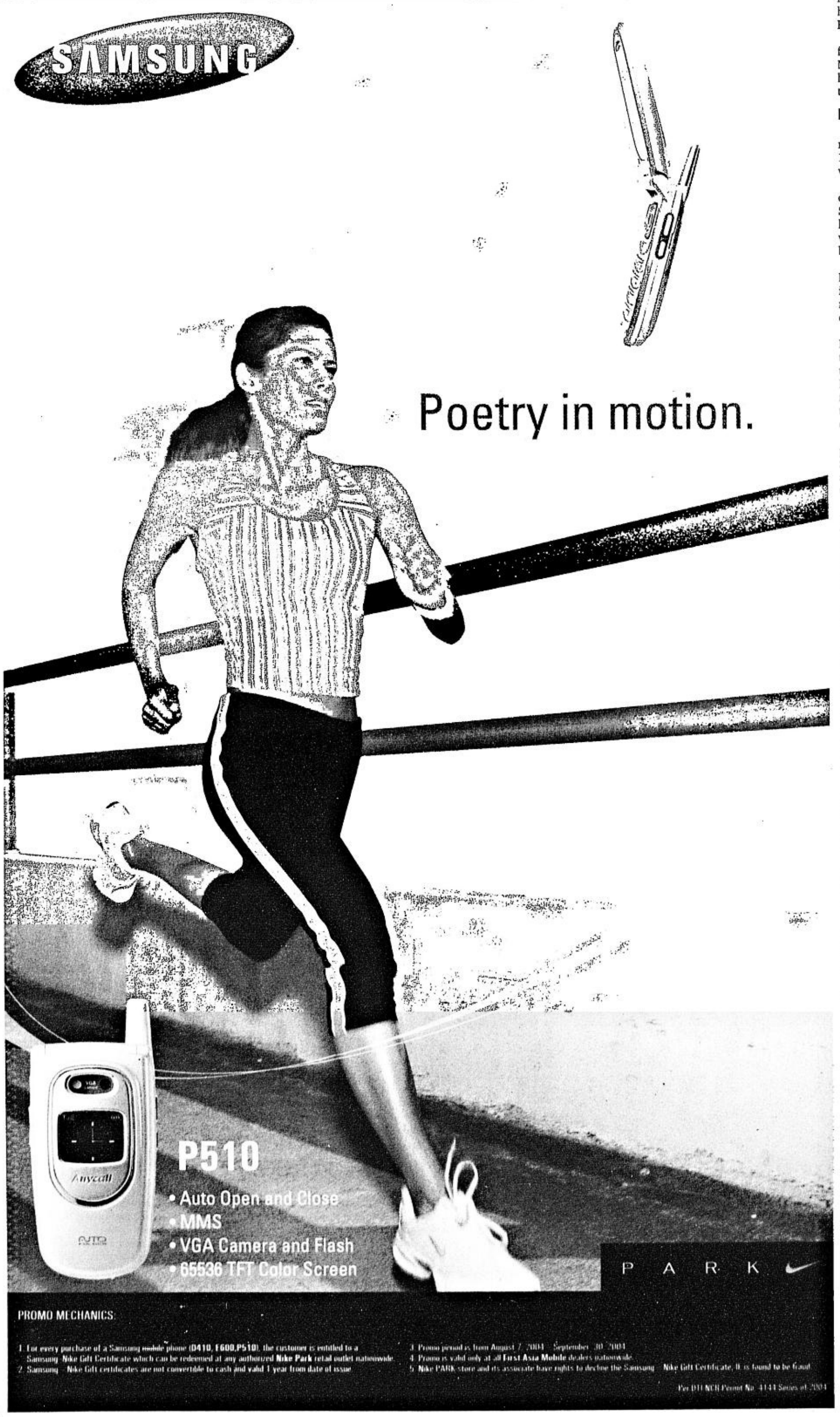
For its part, the SIBP is doing its best to safeguard the environment. Among these efforts are to intensify its environment awareness program by teaching pupils, children, adults and many others of the importance of the forests, rivers, plants and animals. It also hired several forest guards to patrol forested areas and to man checkpoints.

Last Aug. 7, Bishop Palma called for a "partners' meeting" in Calbayog City. This was attended by those involved in "protecting and conserving the environment of Samar Island."

The meeting was aimed at formulating "concrete steps towards the sustainable development of Samar Island."

According to the bishop, they are forming a council composed of local government officials, people's organizations, the church and the SINP that will define development in Samar Island.

"We realized how important it is that we the stakeholders join hands towards that development," he said.



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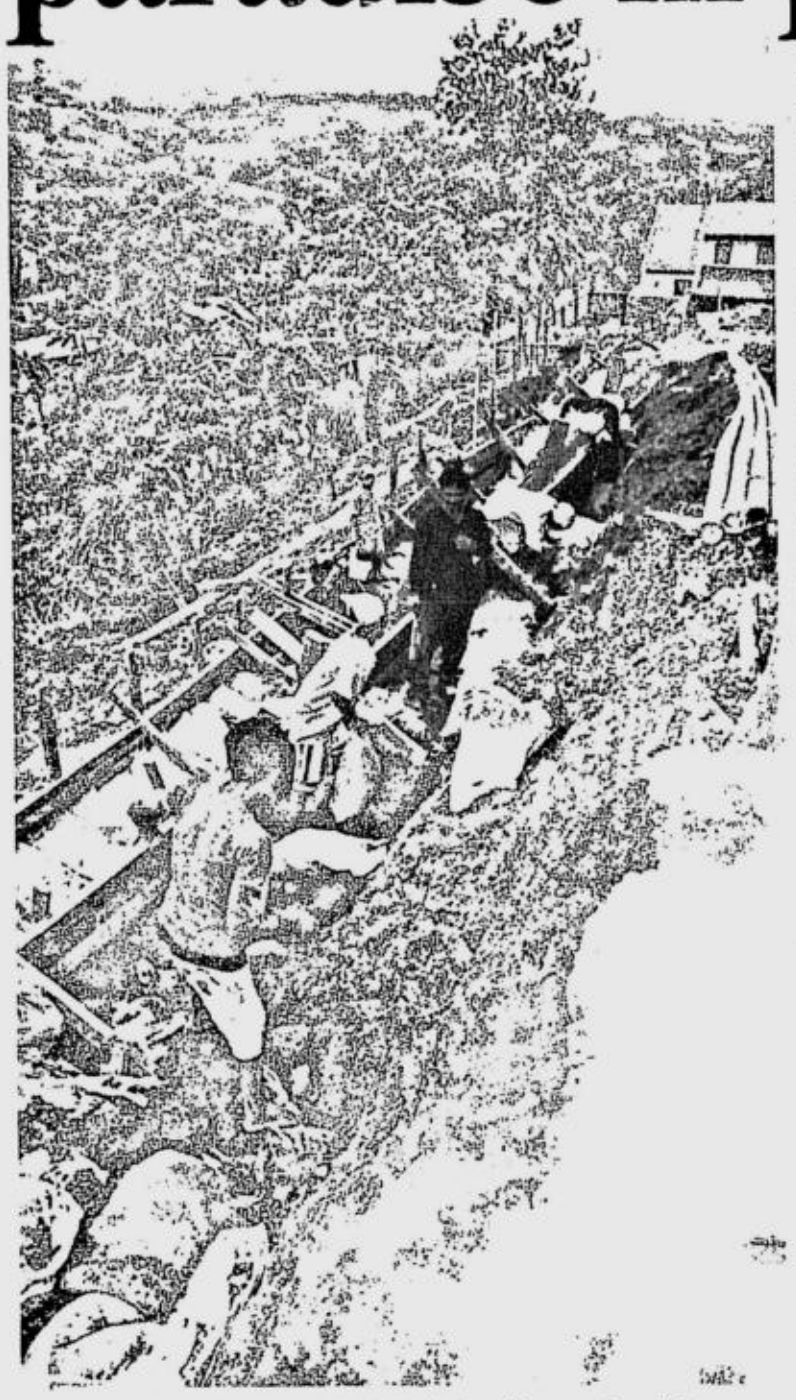
San Mateo's hilly paradise in peril?



WORKERS from developer Globe Asiatique line a ravine with sandbags to prevent soil erosion. RUDY ESPERAS

By Luige del Puerto

SEWN together by a series of narrow roads, the Sta. Barbara Subdivision in San Mateo, Rizal, ends up in a network of hills.

On one of these hills sits Phase 6, one of Sta. Barbara's highest points, providing a majestic view of a creek down below.

Jun Foronda likes to spend his weekends here. Binoculars in hand, he surveys the grassy hill in front of him. To his right, he points out several cottages perched on a hill.

"We come here to get away from the hassles of Metro Manila," Foronda says. His wife, Evangeline, nods in agreement.

The couple had chosen a vacation house in Sta. Barbara. They call it their patch of heaven.

Some 1,800 families live in the 24-hectare subdivision, with 10 hectares devoted to Phase 6.

But an early morning landslide last month had broken the calm.

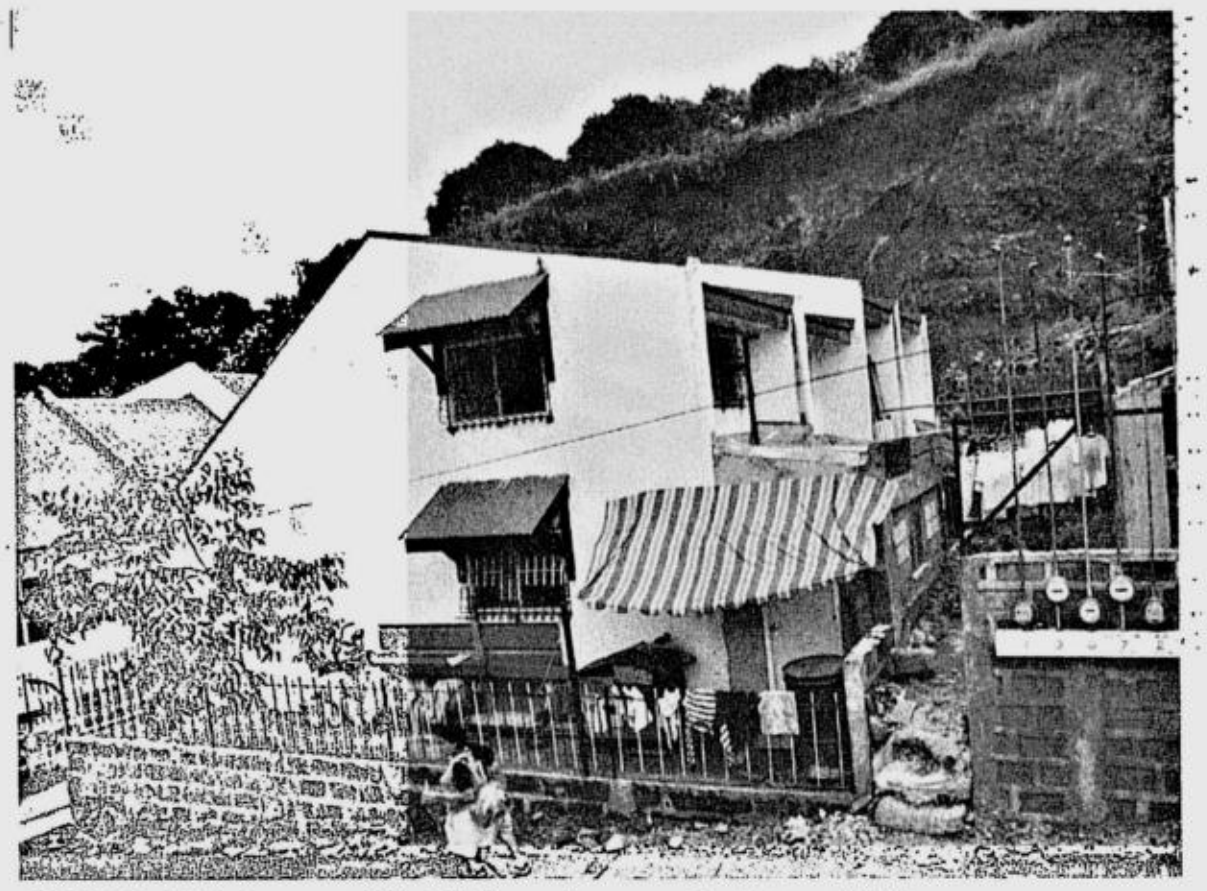
Several blocks from where the Forondas live, loose earth from days of heavy rains cascaded from the slopes nearby, threatening at least four houses.

No one was hurt in the early-morning avalanche, but the riprap protecting the houses gave way.

A week earlier, five people had died in a landslide in neighboring Tierra Monte. A wall had also collapsed, burying people underneath it.

The same developer, Globe Asiatique, had built both walls.

Girlie Flores was not around at the time, but her mother-in-law and five-year-old daughter were at home when the landslide happened. She shudders at the memories.



AUGUST landslides interrupted blissful living at picturesque San Mateo subdivision. RUDY ESPERAS

Three families, including the Floreses were transferred to units across the street. Globe Asiatique had immediately arranged for their transfer.

But Romel Galeos does not want to court fate twice. He wants to move out.

"We hope the developer would let us do that under the buy-back scheme," he says, referring to the system where a developer buys back the house from the owner.

Galeos says eight more families have signified their readiness to leave.

Engineer Noel Adan Largado of the San Mateo Engineering Unit finds the slope at the back of Blocks 42 and 43 too high for comfort. The flat area where the houses stand had been carved out of the mountain. He says the slope is "*masyadong matarik* (too steep)."

Largado says an investigation into the cause of the minor landslide showed the plateau at the back acts as a catch basin for rainwater. The heavy rains proved too much for the land and the riprap.

Largado recommends two solutions. One is to build a drainage system to divert water from the top into lower ground, but that would be costly. The other recommendation is to build stronger walls.

Houses near the slope, ravines or cliffs should be abandoned, according to the town engineer. "What if it rains continuously?" he said.

Sta. Barbara has the necessary clearances approved by government agencies, local officials and the subdivision's engineers said.

The INQUIRER talked to Asiatique engineer Jess Talabucon as his men piled sandbags in a ravine to prevent erosion. They had been working on the area on a 24-hour basis since the landslide occurred, Talabucon said. Families living near the ravine, slopes or cliffs had also been moved to safer grounds.

Talabucon said the riprap had passed the standards of the company and the government. That was why no one was hurt in the avalanche, he said.

Houses near the ravine were in in no danger in case of a landslide, said another engineer, Bernie Bacheco, since these were built in a way that the weight is equally distributed. Their foundations go deep, and their inclinations duly adjusted, he said.

"We did this by the book. We ensured that they are built in such a way that the land would hold," Bacheco added. A plan to put up zinc-coated boulders to repel water is also being mulled.

Alternate plan for C-3 Road

By Edson C. Tandoc Jr.

IF THE public works and highways department does not improve the C-3 Road in Caloocan City, the city government will just have to close it to traffic.

Caloocan City Mayor Enrico Echiverri said if no improvements are made, the city would use the area as a site for the planned University of Caloocan City campus.

He said they are also planning to build a sports complex on the stretch of the road between A. Bonifacio Avenue and J.P. Rizal Avenue Extension, if plans to improve the C-3 Road do not materialize.

The road connects Araneta Avenue in Quezon City to Road 10 in Navotas.

Echiverri had asked the help of government agencies in financing the road improvements.

Suspect in journalist's slay gives up

By Leila B. Salaverria

A BARANGAY captain suspected to be the mastermind in the killing of journalist Arnel Manalo in Batangas last month has surrendered to authorities, saying he had no reason to kill Manalo as he was more than a brother to him.

Instead, Edilberto Mendoza, 55, president of the Liga ng Mga Barangay in Bauan (Batangas), said a business rival could have linked him to the newsman's death to get back at him.

Mendoza was taken into custody the other day by agents of the National Bureau of Investigation's Reaction, Arrest and Interdiction Division through the help of television station GMA-7.

He was placed under arrest on the basis of two warrants issued against him for rape and murder. No warrant was issued against Mendoza in the Manalo killing because the complaint is still under preliminary investigation.

Manalo, a correspondent of radio station dzRH and the tabloid Bulgar, was shot in the face and neck along the national highway in Bauan on Aug. 5, making him the 54th journalist killed in the country since 1986.

NBI Director Reynaldo Wycoco said the police had pointed to Mendoza as the mastermind.

His alleged accomplice, nephew Michael Garcia, was arrested earlier after a lone witness had identified him as one of two suspects in the killing.

Mendoza had gone into hiding until his arrest in Guiguinto, Bulacan. Wycoco said Mendoza's wife had gotten in touch with GMA-7 and the latter, in turn, sought the NBI's help.

Rival angle

Mendoza told reporters at a press conference yesterday that he believes a rival was behind the move to put him in jail by linking him to the crime.

He said he and his rival, a businessman, had fought over his decision to close down the latter's copper slug factory because it was "toxic" and, hence, was a health hazard to residents in their barangay.

He also claimed the same businessman was behind the rape charge against him, which he added was filed by a woman he had never met until she accused him of the crime.

Mendoza also told reporters that he had made himself scarce since Manalo's death because he feared for his life.

Death threats

He said he had been receiving death threats through his cellphone, and these threats forced him to move from one place to another.

The suspect also said he could not have killed Manalo because the latter was the one who had helped Garcia when he was ambushed earlier this year.

"Arnel Manalo is a friend. We treated each other as more than brothers," Mendoza said.

He also denied asking his nephew's help in killing Manalo.

Mendoza claimed that he had not seen his nephew for a long time, so it was not possible that he could have asked for his help.

Child killed as father leaps from footbridge

By Tina Santos

A ONE-YEAR-OLD boy was killed in Quezon City yesterday when his father, who was allegedly high on drugs, leaped from a footbridge while carrying him.

Nestor Silang Jr. died while undergoing treatment due to severe head injuries, while his father Nestor Sr. suffered a broken limb.

The hostage drama began at 1 p.m. at the 20-foot high footbridge located near Sandiganbayan on Commonwealth Avenue when Nestor tiptoed and ran atop the steel overpass.

He occasionally dangled his son to the horror of witnesses in the area, including his wife Herminia, 35, of Kalapati Street, Barangay Commonwealth.

For almost 30 minutes, a woman firefighter tried to negotiate with Silang to free the child but failed. Nestor made no demands and refused to talk to anyone, although he remained firm on not giving away his son.

Police, firefighters and members of the Metro Manila Development Authority immediately arrived in the area.

The commotion ended around 2:40 p.m. when Silang jumped off the footbridge and seemed to have deliberately missed the police blanket that was supposed to catch him and the baby.

Police said Silang landed on the pavement on his feet, but he apparently was not able to hold on to his son, causing the child's head to hit the ground.

Silang was mobbed by an angry crowd upon his landing, while the baby was rushed to the hospital where he later died.

Hotel, trade firm closed

By Margaux C. Ortiz

FOR ALLEGEDLY taking advantage of their business licenses, the Makati City government has shut down the operations of a local company and a Korean firm engaged in hotel and travel services.

City Administrator Nicanor Santiago Jr. said the Do Woo Mi Group of Companies, a trade and consultancy firm, was closed for operating a travel agency, a car rental firm, and hotel services for Korean tourists.

The city administrator said the Korean company had been booking tourists in two Makati condominium hotels. It operates 26 units at the Makati Palace Hotel and another 26 units at Oxford Condominiums.

"In effect, they were operating a hotel within a hotel, and competing with legitimate hotel operators," Santiago said.

Also closed down were 37 units of the Makati Palace Hotel allegedly operated by MABC Enterprises. Its business license classified it as a computer shop.

Brilliant exchange of barbs

ON TARGET

Ramon Tulfo

NEOPHYTE senators and congressmen still ignorant of parliamentary language should learn a lesson or two from the exchange of barbs between Senators Richard Gordon and Miriam Defensor-Santiago.

The two senators crossed swords over the new power rate hikes. But to the not-too-discerning public, innocent to the nuances of polite language, the two legislators disagreed without being disagreeable.

Gordon had reacted to Santiago's reminding a resource person, Energy Regulatory Commission chair Rodolfo Albano, to shorten his reply to Gordon's query.

Santiago chairs the Senate energy committee that's conducting a probe into the new power rate increase in Metro Manila.

Gordon protested the committee chair's remark, saying other senators had asked questions before him and he wanted to be given the same privilege.

Santiago agreed, but said that as committee head it was her role to keep the proceedings in order.

Gordon retorted by asking whether he was out of order. And if he were, why did she think he was.

"You are violating the schedule of the committee," said Santiago.

Gordon said he only asked one question. Santiago ignored him and ordered Meralco officials to go on with their presentation.

The verbal tussle that followed was full of innuendoes but, to the uninitiated, it was harmless.

Gordon: Madame chair, I would like to protest the very dictatorial tendency which perhaps is caused by the lack of the lucid interval at the moment.

Santiago: Your honor, we might exchange heated words but to speak of lucid interval is unethical.

Gordon then said that he had nobody in mind when he used the term "lucid interval."

What's "lucid interval?" It's that time when a mentally unbalanced person becomes normal for a short period.

Maid Miriam has sometimes been referred to as "Brenda" for "brain-damaged." Of course, they don't call her that to her face.

See the implication and how brilliantly the term was used? There was no shouting and cussing between the two feisty senators. Just sarcasm at its best, if you will.

* * *

Some time ago, one of the recently appointed government administrators whom I challenged to live up to his responsibilities has done so with surprising results.

At that time I had used skepticism to prod newly appointed Light Rail Transit Administration head Pacifico Fajardo into cleaning up and increasing its fiscal efficiency.

We should be happy Fajardo has lived up to the challenges of his position—saving P17 million a month through reduced maintenance, from privatizing wages, and even saving P42 million from streamlined security operations.

If it's true that he's again being groomed for bigger things, maybe I should question his capabilities again so that he can prove my skepticism unfounded once more.

I love to be proven wrong if it means more benefits to the country and the masses.

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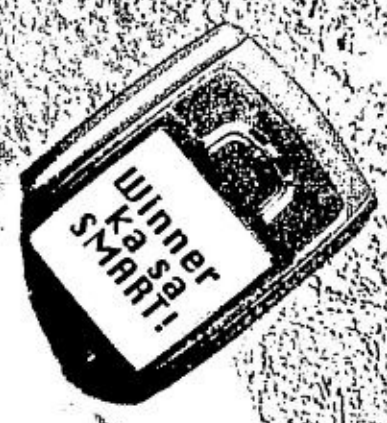

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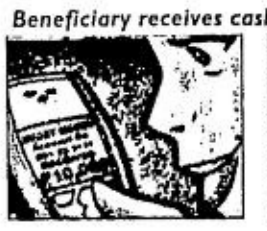

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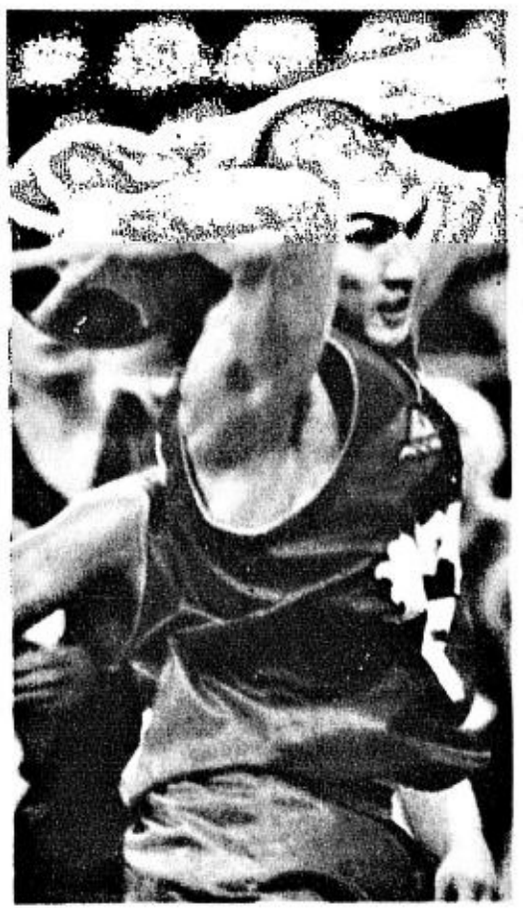


CHRIS Baluyot of SSC grabs a rebound in yesterday's game against Letran. ROMY HOMILLADA

Knights demolish Stags

SSC misses Final Four; SBC, Mapua dispute fourth slot

By Jasmine W. Payo

LETRAN denied San Sebastian the championship last year. This time, the Knights gave the Stags no chance to even knock at the title door.

Forward Aaron Aban proved to be San Sebastian's nightmare as he fired 18 of his 20 points beyond the arc to power the Knights to an 81-78 decision over the Stags at the end of the elimination round of the NCAA basketball tournament yesterday at the Rizal Coliseum.

GAMES WEDNESDAY (*Araneta Coliseum*)
2 p.m.—1st Nestle Cheering Competition
4 p.m.—San Beda vs Mapua (Playoff)

The loss dropped the Stags, champions in the 2001 and 2002 seasons, out of the Final Four for the first time since the format was introduced in 1996.

Although they ended up in a tie with San Beda and Mapua at 7-7, the Stags were eliminated due to an inferior quotient.

San Beda and Mapua will now battle for the fourth spot on Wednesday.

In the other senior game, tailender St. Benilde ended its campaign on a winning note by upending Jose Rizal University, 95-91.

The Knights didn't need to beat the Stags, having already secured the No. 3 slot in the Final Four behind Perpetual Help and Philippine Christian University.

Pep Moore and Leo Najorda moved San Sebastian within four points, 80-76, with 1:14 remaining from 72-61 at the end of the third period.

Moore even cut the lead to 80-78, but he turned heel in the end by getting slapped with a traveling violation with 11 seconds left.

KNIGHTS/ A26

Peping bloc bares POC candidates

By Marc Anthony Reyes

WITH the Olympics over and done with, it's on with the Philippine Olympic Committee elections.

Supporters of POC presidential candidate Jose "Peping" Cojuangco Jr. have bared their list of candidates running against the ticket of incumbent POC president Celso Dayrit, who has remained silent on his plans so far.

The 23 NSAs, who have rallied behind Cojuangco, are set to meet at Cojuangco's Forbes Park residence on Monday to map out a campaign strategy that will touch on the recent luckless Olympic stint in Athens and the preparation for the 2005 Southeast Asian Games in Manila.

Sources said the key candidates of Team Cojuangco are taekwondo's Robert Aventajado as chair, Rep.Monico Puentevella of weightlifting as first vice president and cycling's Bert Lina as secretary general.

Aventajado, Puentevella, bowling's Steve Hontiveros, tennis' Salvador "Buddy" Andrada and athletics' Go Teng Kok met early this week to discuss preparations in their bid to install Cojuangco as the next POC president.

Sources said the group hopes to capitalize on the setback in Athens in calling for a change in the POC leadership. Cojuangco is also in the thick of negotiations with the government to raise the P1 billion requirement for the SEAG.

"They are waiting for the signature campaign (among NSAs) to reach 27 to 28 names, but 23 is already enough for the ticket to push through," said an NSA president privy to the talks.

There are 36 NSA presidents who will vote in the POC elections. Sources said boxing and swimming are also inclined to support Cojuangco.

JANIOLA (left) strikes a pose with Ortiz.

Janiola takes on Ortiz in IBF eliminator

INTERNATIONAL Boxing Federation top junior flyweight contender Wyndel "Braveheart" Janiola fights Mexican Eric Ortiz in a 12-round IBF eliminator tomorrow at the El Toreo de Tijuana in Tijuana, Mexico.

The winner gains the mandatory right to challenge IBF champ Victor Burgos.

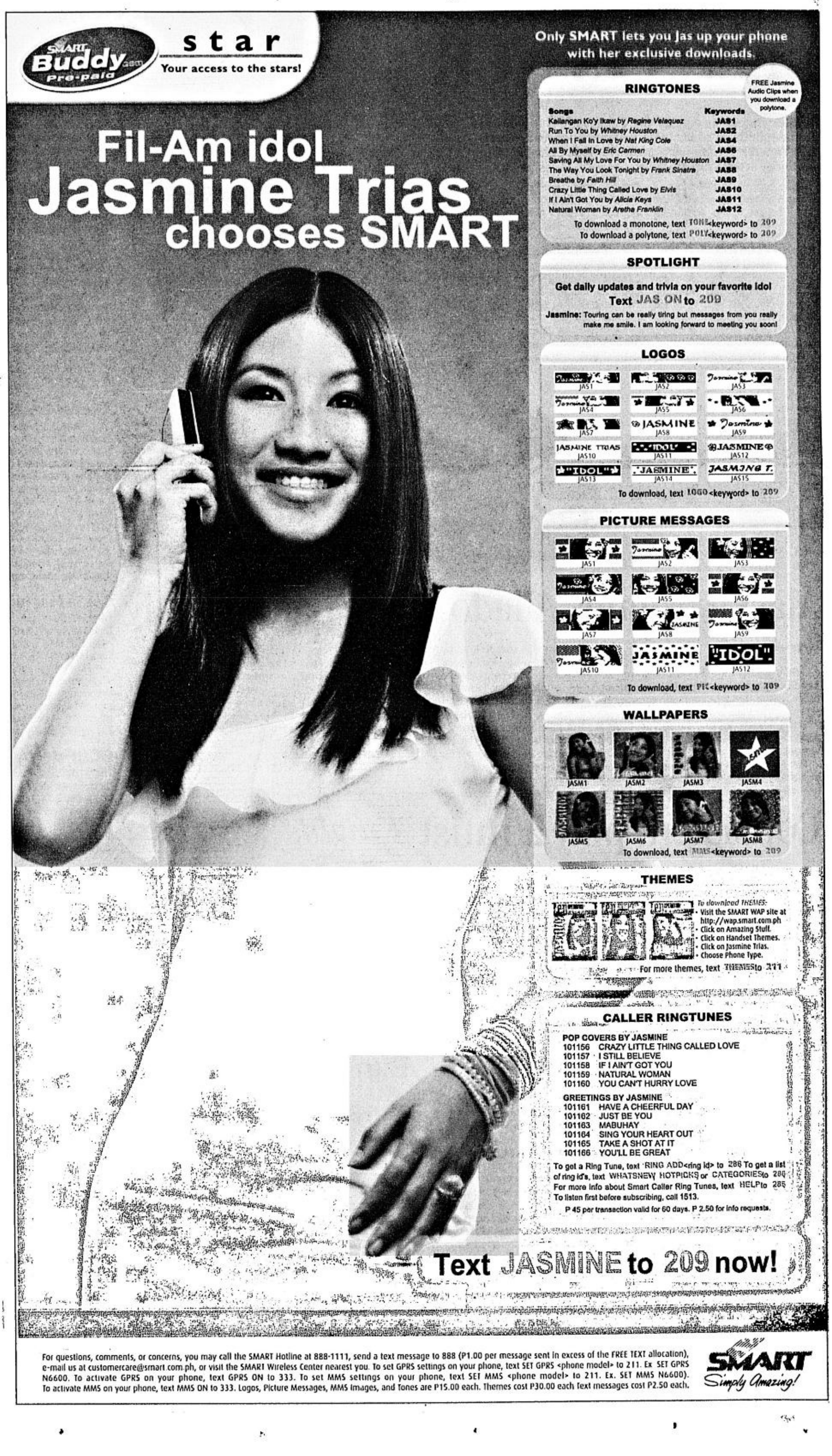
Janiola goes into the fight with a 15-2 win-loss record with 7 KOs, while Ortiz boasts of a 22-4-1 win-draw-loss slate with 15 KOs.

Janiola said he is honored to be fighting for the IBF title slot during the final press conference organized by promoter Fernando Beltran, who is also promoting the WBC junior fly bout between Filipino Juanito Rubillar and champion Jorge Arce of Mexico.

Ortiz said he knows nothing about Janiola's fighting style, but added "it is best to know his style inside the ring."

Ortiz's manager, Rodolfo Perez, has boasted that his ward is sure of victory and is already looking forward to fighting Burgos.

Team Janiola—composed of manager Josephine Ouano, trainer Carl Peñalosa Jr, American Terry Carter and daughter Danielle, and a business associate—have remained low-key in their approach to the fight. *Salven L. Lagumbay, Contributor*



Taguig cagers seek revenge

FORWARD Taguig tries to get back at the Baguio Cardinals today when they clash in a Northern division match in the NBC (National Basketball Conference) national championship at the CP Tinga gym in Taguig.

Taguig lost, 83-86, to Baguio last week in the Cardinals' turf, but Taguig coach Danny Gavierres promises to turn things around in their 6 p.m. rematch.

"Baguio is capable of beating any team any time so it should not be taken lightly," said Gavierres.

Taguig will rely on Jimbo Robillos, Leo Villar, Ogie Gumatay and Ricky Ricafuente, while Baguio pins its hopes on Melvin Fontanilla, Joseph Roque, Elbert Ton and Jun Balares.

Taguig and Baguio tote 5-6 and 4-6 records, respectively, in the tournament sponsored by Panasonic, Spring Cooking Oil, PCSO, Cebu Ferries, Air Philippines, Sulpicio Lines, Nature's Spring Mineral Water, Supercat, Accel, Skygo Motorcycles, Trans-Asia and Molten.

NBC games are aired on the Prime Channel Monday (8 a.m. and 7 p.m.). NBC's game of the week is shown on NBN 4 every Sunday at 4 p.m.

Spring, 2 PBA fives vying in Brunei

THE LAGUNA Spring of the National Basketball Conference plus PBA teams Red Bull and Purefoods have been invited to compete in the cash-rich Sultan Cup tournament slated Sept. 20 to Oct. 1 in Darrusalam, Brunei.

Backed by Spring Cooking Oil, Laguna is among six teams teams seeing action in the import-flavored annual invitational tournament.

The other contenders are Shanghai Sharks of the Chinese Basketball League, TG Sambo Xers of the Korean Basketball League and Taiwanese ballclub Choun Tzu Yu Lon.

Each team is allowed to play two imports.

Laguna Spring is currently on top of the North division in the NBC, which is in the final stage of its regional cagefest.

"It is an honor for our team to be invited to this prestigious tournament," said NBC president Nathaniel "Tac" Padilla, co-owner of Laguna Spring with Gov. Teresita "Ningning" Lazaro.

Spring will be composed of ex-pros Danny Capobres, Chris Nicdao, Robin Mendoza, Chris Corbin, former NCAA MVP Ernani Epondulan, Marlon Kalaw, Mar Reyes, Rodel Manuel and Mike Garcia.

Corbin, Epondulan, Manuel and Spring playing coach Mike Buendia played for the Goh Brothers squad which won the title last year, when the event was still confined to local clubs with some Filipino reinforcements.

Padilla and Lazaro are negotiating with two former PBA imports—6-foot-2 Jeremy Robinson (FedEx) and 6-foot-8 Jarrod Gee (Ginebra)—to reinforce Laguna Spring.

The major prizes in the Brunei event are B$30,000, B$15,000, B$7,000 and B$3,500 for the top four finishers.

Iloilo lady booters gain semis vs NCR

ILOILO whitewashed Iligan City, 5-0, yesterday to barge into the semifinals of the 2004 Philippine Football Federation-SuperFerry National Women's Football Championship yesterday at the Marikina Sports Center in Marikina City.

Iloilo secured second place in Group A with a 3-0-1 win-draw-loss card, behind early semifinalist Davao (4-0-0).

The Iloilo girls now meet their counterparts from Group B, frontrunner National Capital Region, (3-1-0), in the knockout semifinal phase at 3 p.m. today in the tournament co-organized by the PFF and Marikina City Football Association and backed by Mayor Marides C. Fernando and the city government.

Negros Oriental (2-1-0) is still slugging it out with Cebu (1-0-2) in the final match of the elimination round, although the former is assured of the second spot in Group B.

But Negros Oriental may be facing its toughest opposition yet, especially since Davao City Mayor Rodrigo Duterte is expected to be at the sidelines to support his team in the 1 p.m. clash with the Negrenses.

"I'm proud of the team. They gave their 100 percent even though it's the first time that they joined such a tournament," said Iloilo mentor Wesley Hortelano.

Iloilo scored all five goals in the first half with 20-year-old Sigred Anne Pilla knocking in the squad's first three markers. The Central Philippine University student scored in the second, 16th and 26th minutes.

Rona Espinosa fired home the Ilonggas' last two markers in the 29th and 44th minutes.

The weeklong soccerfest is supported by adidas, Red Ribbon Bakeshop, Petron, New Pagcor, Unicef and Aboitiz Express

Earlier, Negros Occidental routed winless Zamboanga, 9-0, and Baguio nipped Cagayan de Oro Misamis Oriental, 3-2, in no-bearing matches.

NEGROS Oriental midfielder Marielle Layumas dribbles off Eileen May Seña of Cagayan de Oro-Misamis Oriental in their game Thursday. Negros prevailed, 2-0. ERNIE U. SARMIENTO

Hot Maroons train sights on Archers

EVERYONE is amazed at the University of the Philippines' six-game winning streak. Except La Salle coach Franz Pumaren.

"Even before the start of the tournament, I already considered UP as one of the favorites. Look at their lineup, it's solid. They're a veteran team that's why they're making this run," said Pumaren.

Thus, the La Salle Archers are bracing for a tough outing when they try to clinch a Final Four seat today against the Maroons in the UAAP varsity basketball tournament at the Philsports Arena.

"We really want to win because we still have a shot at the top two," added Pumaren, whose Archers (8-4) closely trail co-leaders Ateneo and Far Eastern (9-3).

STANDINGS	W	L
Ateneo	9	3
FEU	9	3
La Salle	8	4
UE	7	5
UP	6	6
Adamson	4	8
UST	4	8
NU	1	11

GAMES TODAY
(Philsports Arena)
11:30 a.m.—UE vs Adamson (Jrs)
2 p.m.—UE vs Adamson (Srs)
4 p.m.—UP vs La Salle (Srs)
6 p.m.—UP vs La Salle (Jrs)

In the other senior game, the University of the East tries to hold on to the fourth spot when the Warriors fight the Adamson Falcons at 2 p.m.

While UP aims for its seventh straight win today, the Diliman cagers must also pray that UE loses at least one of its two remaining games to give them a chance at a playoff for the last berth.

"UE kept winning, so we have to win also. I told the team we can't celebrate yet. This weekend is another big game for us," said UP coach Lito Vergara, who has scored back-to-back shockers over the Eagles and the Tamaraws.

La Salle is the only side UP has yet to beat. The Archers nipped the Maroons, 69-68, in their first-round encounter. *Jasmine W. Payo*

SPORTSWATCH

Gorres battles Thai pug tonight

TOP-RANKING super flyweight Z "The Dream" Gorres attempts to clear the final hurdle to a stint in Hollywood when he takes on Thai World Boxing Organization No. 8 Sairung Suwanasil in a 10-round bout tonight at the Mandaue City Sports and Cultural Complex. The southpaw Gorres yesterday weighed in at 115 lb, while Suwanasil barely made the 116-lb contract weight during official weigh-in supervised by GAB's Rolando Mendoza at the ALA Gym. WBO Asia Pacific's Leon Panoncillo said he would recommend a top 10 slot in the WBO rankings if Gorres wins. Gorres wants an impressive outing to justify the decision of his handlers to have him train at Freddie Roach's Wild Card Gym in the US. The 29-year-old Suwanasil holds a 31-4 win-loss record and has not lost a fight in the last six years. He last tasted defeat in Indonesia against Ahmad Fandi on Dec. 13, 1998. *Salven Lagumbay, contributor*

Team MayniLA raring for HK action

HONG KONG—Team MayniLA-Philippines is raring to see action in the 2004 Hong Kong Swimming Championships at the Kowloon Park Swimming Pool here. Composed of stalwarts from the recent 3rd Manila Youth Games (MY Games), the Manileños were to see action Friday evening with 14-year-old Ryan Paolo Arabejo competing in the 1,500-meter freestyle. What makes it more difficult for the Manila tankers is the absence of age bracketing in which members of the team, mostly aged 12–14, will be grouped against stronger, taller 16-under swimmers. The team is composed of Arabejo, Tessa Paula Alcantara, Alethea Alcantara, Chrisel Naziz Lagunday, Malco Alron Dacanay, and Mathew Tano.

GCAP derby series starts Monday

THE "GENTLEMEN Cockers Association of the Philippines (GCAP) 5-Stag Derby Series" begins on Monday at the Las Piñas Coliseum with Sagupaan Complexor 3000 and Pagcor as sponsors. Participants must submit entries tomorrow from 5-9 p.m. and may call 874-3910 and 873-1040 for details (look for Gerry or Julius). Seven GCAP stag derbies will be held at the LPC on Sept. 6, 13, 20, 27 and Oct. 4, 11, and 18. Derby aficionados can expect more than 60 fights every derby," said GCAP president Patrick Antonio.

7-Stag National lures 110 entries

A TOTAL of 110 entries from all over Luzon, the Visayas and Mindanao lock horns tonight at Roligon Mega Cockpit when the 18th Annual Ray-Showdown 7-Stag National Derby unfolds at 4 p.m. The event is hosted by Danny Ty, lawyer Romero Yu & Juancho Aguirre with Mimi Itchon as screener. Leading the list of fighters are reigning World Slasher Champion Pol Estrellado, Boy Royo & Boy "Lechon" de Roca, Mike Romulo, Ryoichi Saito, Jeff & Joel Fernando, Cong. Ronnie Puno of Antipolo, Dicky Lim, Vice Gov. Mon Lambino of Pangasinan, Jey & Boboy de los Santos, Boy Marzo, Benjie Lim, Baby Canillas, Cong. Espina with Arnold Mendoza, Jun Topacio, Dr. Oduyo, Madison Go, Tito Reyes, Tony Lasala, R. Villarubio, Enrique Miranda, Allan Siaco and Boy Montano.

Alaska extends Allado, Duat pacts to July

By June Navarro

ALASKA has kept the services of power forward Don Allado and slasher Rob Duat for another season through automatic contract extensions. The pacts will end in July next year.

Team manager Joaqui Trillo said the 6-foot-5 Allado and Duat would get the same monthly wage and incentives based on their existing pacts.

The Aces are also set to sign up Eugene Tejada, a seldom-used, 6-foot-4 bruiser, but probably only up to the end of the All-Filipino Cup in February next year, Trillo added.

After releasing Don Camaso to the unrestricted free-agent roster a few weeks back, the Aces are now looking at former Purefoods slotman Chris Cantonjos to take Camaso's slot.

Camaso has rejoined the Talk 'N Text Phone Pals after signing a two-and-a-half-year pact early in the week. The Phone Pals traded Camaso before the 2003 PBA season but the 6-foot-4 forward found little playing time with the Aces.

Perennial title contenders in the All-Filipino Cup, the Aces have tagged San Miguel Beer as the heavy favorites to capture the AFC crown.

Defending champion Talk 'N Text and Red Bull Barako are also strong contenders, Trillo said.

"If San Miguel plays with an intact lineup, it will be the team to beat in the AFC. Otherwise, either Talk 'N Text or Red Bull could come up with a strong finish," Trillo added.

San Miguel's Danny Seigle and Danny Ildefonso, a two-time league MVP, have undergone surgery to remove bone spurs on their feet. San Miguel coach Jong Uichico hopes Seigle and Ildefonso could get back in time for the AFC.

Consistent play a must

PREMIUM will be on overall play and potential contribution to the team rather than on how the candidates fare during the qualifying tournament next week for the Philippine squad to the World Amateur golf championship slated in Puerto Rico next month.

"How they finish in the qualifying will be a major factor in the selection, but that's not all of it. We will use the event to look for consistency," said National Golf Association of the Philippines president Benny Gopez.

"You can't shoot a 65 today and an 80 tomorrow."

JR Tanpinco, Jay Bayron, Laurence Negrido, Gino Bunyi and either Tonlits Asistio or Gene Bondoc have been added to the original list of candidates composed of Juvic Pagunsan, Michael Bibat, Marvin Dumandan, Boyet Saragoza, Jun Bernis, Erwin Vinluan and Artemio Murakami.

Bibat, Dumandan, Saragoza and Bernis represented the country in the recent Putra Cup where they finished fourth overall. *Musong R. Castillo*

Knights . . .

From page A25

Meanwhile, the La Salle Greenies completed the Final Four cast in junior play after routing the Light Bombers, 101-64.

The scores:

SECOND GAME (SRS)

ST. BENILDE 95—Abad 24, Sagad 21, Orbeta 19, Morial 13, Manding 11, Robles 2, Paguio 2, Devaras 2.

JRU 91—Lindaya 24, Attunaga 12, Fenequito 11, Yuzon 7, Santos 6, Hatague 6, Maniego 6, Magtahao 5, Domangcas 4, Te 2, Nicolas 0.

Quarters: 16-18, 42-41, 75-62, 95-91.

THIRD GAME (SRS)

LETRAN 81—Aban 20, Bautista 17, Andaya 16, Enrile 7, Piñera 6, Aldave 6, Alcaraz 4, Rodriguez 3, Mondragon 2.

SSC 78—Moore 26, Najorda 20, Baluyot 10, Vicente 7, Manedang 6, Uy 4, Aguilar 2, Rebuya 2, Gonzales 1, Lindaya 0, De Leon 0.

Quarters: 23-20, 52-42, 72-61, 81-68.

Dangerous move

SPECTATOR

Al S. Mendoza

THE SUGGESTION of Cito Dayrit to reward archer Jasmin Figueroa some money is dangerous. It can set a bad precedent.

While it is commendable enough to think of such an idea—athletes, like many of us, are usually among the most cash-strapped in a poverty-torn republic such as ours—it can trigger a flood of harm than good.

I salute the kind-heartedness of Cito, the Philippine Olympic Committee president who will now suffer the ignominy of going through two Olympiads without a medal. But then, being charitable cannot always guarantee good results.

For one, if we do that, why not also the others? It'd be unfair to single out one over the rest of the 16-strong RP Olympians. It could mean only Figueroa had really done well, brushing aside in effect also the gallant performances of the rest, particularly taekwondo jins Mary Antoinette Rivero and Donald Geisler III, not to mention boxers Romeo Brin and Harry Tañamor, both first-round winners.

It cannot be denied that Figueroa's feats of beating the former world champion of Italy in the first round, and then losing by only two points to her second-round opponent, are something to crow about.

Still, I don't think that merits a revision of the rules. I think it would be always wise to stick to what had been agreed upon: We give incentives only to medalists, period. We should learn to be sticklers to rules, or we wouldn't advance one inch in this wild and wooly world. A contract, called by any name, will smell as sweet always if followed to the letter.

Now, if some of you out there think otherwise, well, go ahead. Reward Jasmin for all I care. It's your money, anyway.

Now, if those who had pledged money incentives to medalists would decide to heed Cito Dayrit's suggestion, I couldn't care less, too. It's not mine to give, anyway. If it isn't yours, why meddle?

Now, this statement, again, by a sports official, whose name slips my mind at the moment, that it's back to the drawing board after our failure to land a single medal in Athens, does that not stink?

We hear that line time and again, not only in the Olympics, but also in the Asian Games.

What drawing board to speak of in the first place? Haven't we been doing that since time immemorial?

Hey, we heard that when we also left Sydney 2000 with a big, fat egg.

Four years is a long time to stay in the drawing board. An architect doesn't need one month to design a house. A civil engineer doesn't need a week to sign for a structurally sound edifice—building, house, bridge, whatever.

An investigation is in order, said a senator, of the Athens debacle.

What debacle? Was he born yesterday?

A debacle is a state when you lose badly after having been installed the heavy favorite to win—as in FPJ losing badly in Cebu when pre-poll surveys showed he was ahead.

What investigation? You investigate failure and you will only end up part of the failure yourself.

The Olympiad, as I keep saying, is not cut out for us anymore. Unless we change that outlook, we will just be going circles here.

The world has changed, continues to change.

We won a medal the first time in the 1924 Olympics. Eighty years later, we only had a total of 9 medals—the best being two boxing silvers, one in 1964 in Tokyo through Anthony Villanueva and the other in 1996 in Atlanta through Onyok Velasco.

Nine medals in 80 years, and not even a single gold to show.

In contrast, Thailand had 7 medals in just one Olympiad—3 golds, 1 silver and 3 bronzes in Athens. That haul put Thailand 25th among 202 nations entered in the 28th edition of the Games. And to think that Thailand is our top foe in next year's SEA Games set in Manila.

Just that thought alone should send everybody scurrying to the drawing board this early—if that's any help.

Will Cito Dayrit lead the way?

If yes, that'd be too dangerous a move, to say the least.

Rosales fires ace for 68, trails leader Kim by six strokes

SPRINGFIELD, Illinois—Jennifer Rosales scored a hole-in-one en route to a 68 that was six shots adrift of first-round leader Christina Kim, who matched her career-best with a 62 Thursday in the $1.2-million State Farm Classic.

Rosales aced the 16th hole after earlier birdies on the 14th and 15th. A bogey on the 18th marred her round.

The 20-year-old Kim's 10-under-par score included 11 birdies and a bogey. She closed out her round with four straight bogeys on the front nine.

A stroke behind Rosales was Fil-Am Dorothy Delasin, who finished with a 69.

Kim's 62 also equaled the best round at The Rail Golf Course shared by Laura Davies in 1991 and Kathryn Marshall six years later.

A California native, Kim's parents, Man Kim and Deok, are of Korean descent and celebrated their 25th anniversary watching their daughter. Kim's father is both her caddie and coach.

"My parents' 25th anniversary is today, so I had that a little in the back of my head," she said. "I felt kind of bad because it's their 25th anniversary and they're stuck here with me."

In just her second year on the LPGA Tour, Kim has a close relationship with her father, saying: "He does everything but chew my food and hit my ball for me." Kim put those feelings aside as she matched her low round last year before finishing in a tie for fourth.

"In all honesty, this might sound silly, but my other 62 is so far back I can't really remember," Kim said.

Rookie Mikaela Parmlid of Sweden is two shots back, following a bogey-free 64. Laura Diaz, who played with Kim, is next with 65.

"It's always nice to play with someone who is making putts," said Diaz, who had nine birdies and two bogeys. Birdies are something Kim had no trouble with. She started her barrage with the first of four straight birdies at the par-5 12th, when she hit out of a bunker to within five feet. At 13, 14 and 15, she converted birdie putts, all within 20 feet.

Defending champion Candie Kung, who won here in a playoff last year, is five shots back with a 67. *AFP*

Record awaits Milo run in Davao

ANOTHER record field of about 8,000 will be at the starting line when Davao City hosts the elimination leg of the 28th National Milo Marathon tomorrow.

With South Cotabato's Davao-based regional bets—Hernani Sore and Monaliza Ambasa—already in the national finals after winning the General Santos City leg of the country's longest-running marathon, experts predict a wide open race.

Veterans Rolito Cuevas, Francisco Bustamante of Tagum City and Reynante Villarma have been tagged as favorites to figure in the finals and win the P10,000 top prize and a Globe Handyphone.

The race, which starts and ends in front of the PTA sports center, is backed by Bayview Park Hotel, Cebu Pacific, adidas, Globe Handyphone and the Tourism Department.

In the distaff side, a three-way fight is expected among Estela Mamac Diaz of Davao City, Joan Banayag of Compostela Valley and Judelyn Miranda of Tagum.

The 5-K fun run and the 3-K kiddie race drew the biggest participants with over 7,000 runners.

Elmer Martinez, regional manager of Nestlé Philippines, will fire the starting gun at 6 a.m. in front of Apo View Hotel at J. Camus Street. The finish line will be beside the entrance of the PTA sports center at Palma Gil Street.

Pat Goc Ong, Milo Sports Executive, said the premier running event would have attracted 86,000 runners after the Davao leg in the search for the country's best marathoners who will compete in the 28th National Milo Marathon Finals on Nov. 14 in Manila.

AT 34, Andre Agassi can still chase tough shots and take younger opponents out of the US Open. AP

US OPEN

Kids can't keep up with old man Agassi

NEW YORK—Maybe it's time for Andre Agassi to pick on someone his own age. These kids just can't keep up with him.

Fit as a rookie at 34, Agassi advanced at the US Open on Thursday by running ragged a player more than a dozen years younger for the second straight match. Then he made perfectly clear this will not be the final tournament of his career.

Agassi, playing his 19th straight Open, bucked a one-set blip, regained control, and led, 7-5, 2-6, 6-2, 1-0, when Florian Mayer quit with a left hamstring injury.

"I just don't want to play old. That's what I'm concerned about out there," said Agassi, the most, ahem, experienced man in the field. "I feel like if I can still play my tennis, then I'm proud of that."

All around Agassi, his peers and pals keep leaving the game: Pete Sampras, Jim Courier, Michael Chang and, this week alone, Todd Martin and Wayne Ferreira.

That—plus a 16-month title drought he only recently ended—led to a buzz that Agassi might be contemplating walking away, perhaps after the Open. Asked if his post-Open tennis schedule was set, and whether that might be a signal of his plans, Agassi left zero wiggle room.

"Well," he responded, "let this be a signal: I'm not considering retiring at the end of this tournament."

Smiling, he added: "Let that be a big flare."

Agassi got past Mayer, 20, three days after a straight-set win over Robby Ginepri, 21, in his pursuit of a ninth Grand Slam title. At a major, with potentially seven best-of-five set matches over two weeks, Agassi knows it helps to get off the court quickly. Especially when the temperature tops 75.

"You don't want to spend anything unnecessarily," Agassi said.

He hasn't reached a Slam final since the 2003 Australian Open; this year, he skipped Wimbledon with a hip injury and lost in the first round at the French Open.

Agassi is playing in his 56th major, only two shy of the record.

In other matches in the men's draw, Olympic double gold medalist Nicolas Massu lost in a wild 5-hour, 9-minute match against Sargis Sargsian, where Massu was penalized a game in the fifth set.

The 10th-seeded Massu was docked a game for throwing his racket, then engaged an official in a 10-minute argument, and wound up losing, 6-7 (6), 6-3, 3-6, 7-6 (6), 6-4, in the second-longest match, by time, in Open history. Sargsian now plays Paul-Henri Mathieu, who beat No. 21 Taylor Dent, 6-7 (6), 6-4, 6-3, 7-6 (6), in a mere 3:17.

Massu was livid after being put in a 1-0 hole in the fifth set for racket abuse. Chair umpire Carlos Ramos already had warned Massu in the first set for tossing his racket, then penalized him a point in the second set.

"I played for five hours, I fight a lot, and this guy comes here, gives me two or three warnings. I accept the first two warnings. If I have to pay something, I accept it. But the third is unbelievable," Massu said.

Amer Delic, a wild card, was the latest American man to lose, beaten by No. 3 Carlos Moya, 6-2, 3-6, 6-3, 6-2, in Thursday's last match.

French Open champion Gaston Gaudio was beaten by 2002 Australian Open winner Thomas Johansson, 6-3, 2-6, 6-4, 6-4. *AP*

Tuason rules Shell karting

ROSARIO, BATANGAS—Mike Tuason of Tuason Racing-Addict Mobile and Maico Angeles of Primus Racedevils unveiled sterling performances to rule their respective classes yesterday in the fifth leg of the 2004 Shell-PCSO Superkarting Series at the Batangas Racing Circuit.

Tuason, who clocked 18:19.343, scored his fifth consecutive triumph in the Formula Rotax Max Seniors of this event sanctioned by the Automobile Association of the Philippines and sponsored by Pilipinas Shell, Philippine Charity Sweepstakes Office through Hon. Rosario Uriarte, Bridgestone, Aviva Insurance, Eastway Motorcycle Racing and Denso Iridium Power.

Angeles turned back Daniel Cleak of Bosch Intelco in the Formula Rotax Max Novice class, finishing the 12-lap race in 18:22:562.

Oliver Aquino of Bosch Intelco beat Rafael Oracion of Tuason Racing-Addict Mobile and teammate John Paul Dizon in the KT Light class.

Actually, Angeles and Cleak held the 1-2 grid positions prior to the finals of the combined Seniors and Novice race.

Tuason stepped on the gas with a fastest lap time of 1:18.659 on the third lap and wrested the pole two laps later.

Tim Gosnel and Archie Rubio of Bosch Intelco gave Tuason a close fight to the end but victory was clear for Tuason when he reached the final straight going to the finish line.

Gosnel checked in just 0.642 seconds shy of Tuason's time for the runner-up honors.

Sharapova and Williams advance amid struggles

NEW YORK—Russia's Maria Sharapova hit her shots so sharply against Jelena Jankovic, many fans at Louis Armstrong Stadium left their seats early in hopes of finding a more competitive match.

They missed seeing things get interesting at the US Open.

After breezing through the first seven games Thursday, Sharapova started bumbling. Soon after that, despite winning a 27-stroke point in the tiebreaker, the Wimbledon champion found herself again in a decisive third set.

But then, a bad omen for Jankovic: For some reason, her name began flickering on the scoreboard lights.

And so did her hopes of an upset, especially when she needed treatment for a recurring left hip strain. Sharapova ramped up and claimed 15 straight points in winning, 6-0, 6-7 (5), 6-1.

"I felt that I could hit any shot from anywhere on the court," the Russian teen said. "That's a good feeling to have when you're in the third set."

Most of the top players struggled a bit.

Venus Williams got off to a slow start before beating fellow American Shikha Uberoi, 7-5, 6-1, and defending Open champion Justine Henin-Hardenne of Belgium defeated Israeli qualifier Tzipi Obziler, 6-2, 5-7, 6-2.

The reigning French Open champions weren't so fortunate, as No. 4 Russian Anastasia Myskina and No. 9 Gaston Gaudio of Argentina both lost.

Williams' victory made for history. For the first time at the US Open, four black women advanced to the third round.

Williams joined her sister, Serena, along with Chanda Rubin and Angela Haynes in advancing.

"The best thing is that we're all American, and this tournament represents America," Venus said.

All four players will not reach the fourth round. Venus Williams and Rubin face each other in their next match.

On Friday, Haynes plays Italy's Francesca Schiavone while Serena Williams takes on Tatiana Golovin of France.

Lindsay Davenport had an easy time, beating Spain's Arantxa Parra Santonja, 6-4, 6-2, to win her 19th straight match.

But Myskina lost to 17-year-old Russian qualifier Anna Chakvetadze, 7-6 (3), 6-3, and Gaudio fell to 2002 Australian Open winner Thomas Johansson of Sweden, 6-3, 2-6, 6-4, 6-4.

"I didn't want to fight. I didn't want to run," Myskina said. "I didn't want to do anything." *AP*

MARIA Sharapova slams a return. AP

Generals score 10th straight win

HOST Emilio Aguinaldo College outhustled Colegio de San Lorenzo, 72-63, yesterday to put away its 10th straight victory in the elimination round of the 3rd Universities and Colleges Athletics Association (UCAA) basketball tournament at the EAC Gym.

Last year's runner-up Philippine School of Business Administration survived National College of Business and Arts in overtime, 100-93, to make up for its defeat to the Generals on Wednesday.

EAC hotshots Ronjay Buenafe and Nino Songco struggled offensively, but Lionel Rivera stepped up for coach Nomar Isla and poured in a team-high 17 points, his first double-digit output for the season.

Rivera's heroics were enough to lead the Generals past the Griffins anew and to their 10th win in as many games in the eight-team tournament backed by Accel, New Balance shoes, Arena swimwear, Villa de Oro Resorts Boracay, Shakey's Pizza, Molten and Mikasa balls.

"Rivera came out of his shell and led us to victory," said Isla. "Our bench did the most damage."

Seldom-used Ferdinand Melocoton added 12 points for the Generals.

Ronnie Zagala scored a season-high 28 points as the Jaguars improved to 6-4. NCBA and CDSL dropped to 5-5.

Stackhouse graces Streetball tilt

TWO-TIME NBA All-Star Jerry Stackhouse of the Dallas Mavericks and Jay Williams, the overall No. 2 draft pick in 2002, attended the 2004 adidas Streetball Challenge Asian Final basketball clinic in Korea.

"This is my first time in Korea and I am very excited to become part of the 2004 adidas Streetball Challenge Asian Final, the first streetball tournament that takes place on an ice rink," said Stackhouse.

"I am happy to be invited to the adidas Streetball Challenge Asian Final in Asia," said Williams.

Stackhouse and Williams shared their professional basketball skills with the Streetball participants and young cagers from Whi Mun High School in a coaching clinic at the ice rink of the Lotte World.

Two KBL players, Kim Joo-Sung, MVP of the 2004 season, and Mun Kyung-Eun, joined them at the clinic.

The 2004 adidas Streetball Challenge Asian Final is the first regional final held in Korea. Sixteen boys' and girls' teams, representing eight countries and regions including China, Hong Kong, Korea, Malaysia, Philippines, Singapore, Taiwan and Thailand, will compete for the Asian championship.

JERRY Stackhouse poses with the boys of the Holy Cross College of Davao squad, who represented the Philippines in the streetball challenge.

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2 THE CINDERELLA STORY
3 (DOLBY) THE VILLAGE

Cinema 2000 Metrotown (Tarlac) tel (045) 982.1729
1 ELLA ENCHANTED
2 WEREWOLF (GINGER SNAP-2)
3 (DOLBY) DEAD PEOPLE
4 (DTS) THE CINDERELLA STORY

Cinema 2000 Waltermart (Plaridel) tel (044) 7953320
1 ANACONDAS
2 PRINCESS DIARIES-2
3 (DOLBY) ALIEN VS, PREDATOR

Lianas Cinema (Alabang) tel 850.1276
1 (SDDS) WILD BUTTERFLY
2 HAMOG
3 COLLATERAL
4 (DTS) ALIEN VS. PREDATOR

Lianas MovieCity (Calamba) tel (049) 545.7202
1 (DOLBY) ANACONDAS
2 HAMOG
3 (DTS) ALIEN VS, PREDATOR
4 TEEN PLAY
5 PRINCESS DIARIES-2

Mega Center Mall (Cabanatuan City) tel (044) 463.3283
1 HAMOG
2 NOW THAT I HAVE YOU
3 (DTS) ALIEN VS. PREDATOR
4 (DOLBY) DEAD PEOPLE

Fiesta World Mall (Lipa) tel (043) 981.0790
1 DEATH CURSE
2 THUNDERBIRD
3 KARELASYON
4 ALIEN VS, PREDATOR

Berma Cinema (Baclaran) tel 879.2030 / 879.2029
1 ANACONDAS
2 SUGAT

MOVIES / SCHEDULES / PRICES SUBJECT TO CHANGE WITHOUT PRIOR NOTICE

CCP marks 35th anniversary

THE Cultural Center of the Philippines turns 35 on September 8.

CAYABYAB. Awardee for Music.

To celebrate this milestone, the CCP has lined up several activities, beginning with the annual thank-you lunch for the CCP's media friends. During the luncheon, billed "A-Press-Ciation," the CCP will announce the winning entry in the "Name the CCP Building" contest. (It is the CCP Main Building that is being given a new name, not the institution.) The new name will reflect the nature of the CCP, as well as embody its aims as an institution mandated to preserve and promote Filipino culture.

Luncheon

The CCP chimes will also be launched during the press luncheon. They are played in CCP theaters and venues as a signal to audiences that a performance is about to start.

Music for the new CCP chimes is taken from "Prelude Ethnica" by National Artist Lucrecia R. Kasilag, and arranged for guitar quartet by Jose Valdez. The Kasilag Guitar Quartet will perform.

Department of Social Welfare and Development Secretary Dinky Soliman will open the Pilak Multi-media exhibit at 5 p.m. at the CCP Bulwagang Carlos V. Francisco (Little Theater lobby).

The highlight of the CCP's 35th anniversary is the Gawad CCP Para sa Sining Awards ceremonies at 7 p.m. at the CCP Tanghal ang Nicanor Abelardo.

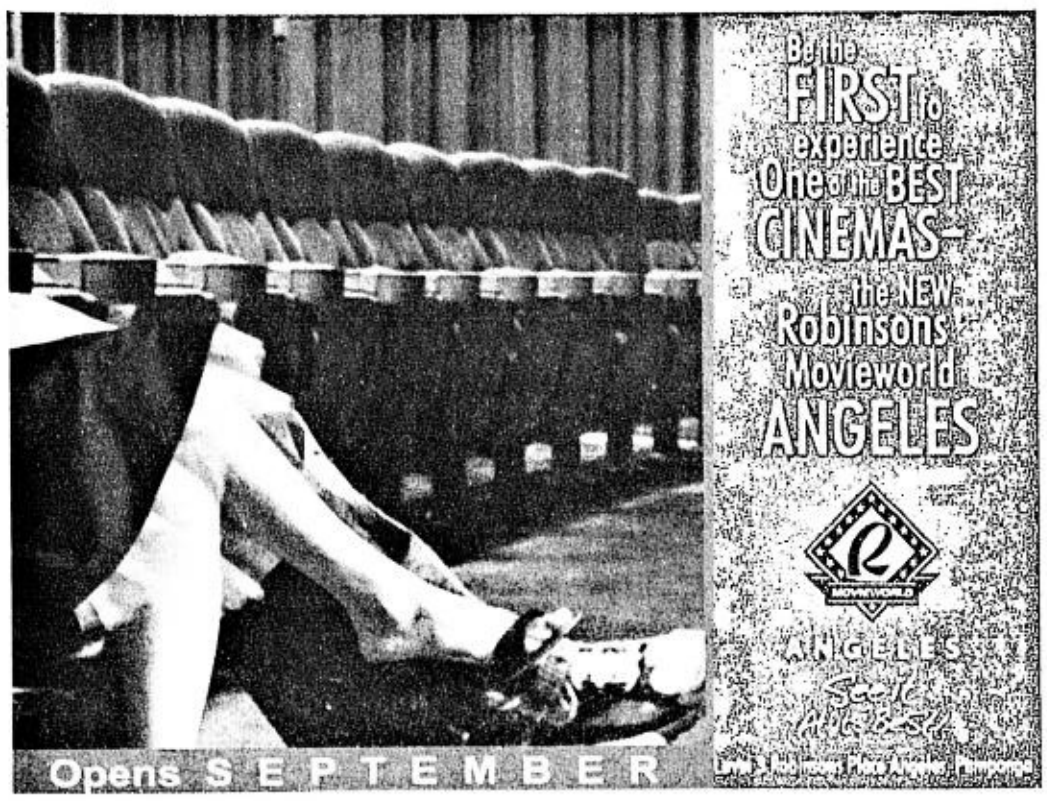
The Gawad CCP, which was revived this year, is the highest award given by the CCP to outstanding Filipino artists and cultural workers. A special award, the Tanghal Parangal ng CCP, will be given. It is bestowed on individuals or organizations in recognition of their outstanding contributions that have had significant impact on the arts.

Tribute

This year, the Gawad CCP pays tribute to choreographer Eddie Elejar, composer Ryan P. Cayabyab, Philippine Educational Theater Association founder Cecile Guidote-Alvarez, director Peque Gallaga, broadcast journalist Cheche L. Lazaro, the late artist Santiago Bose, writer Rene O. Villanueva, architect Francisco T. Mañosa, Baraoain Kalinangan Foundation Inc, the late columnist Doreen G. fernandez, Mindulani Inc. and Antonio O. Cojuangco.

The CCP was created in 1966 through Executive Order No. 30, and was formally inaugurated on Sept. 8, 1969.

Since its founding, the CCP has sought to embody its logo of truth, beauty and goodness. Its mission-vision is to nurture and promote artistic excellence, Filipino aesthetics and identity, and cultural values towards a humanistic global society.



SM CINEMA

what to watch

Suspense

ANACONDAS

A scientific expedition sets out for the island of Borneo. They are in search of a flower named the Black Orchid. Reports say that this flower can lead to a longer life. But what they find inhabiting the rainforest of Borneo, are a group of anacondas. But they aren't ordinary... the Black Orchid made the anacondas longer, faster, and smarter. Now the scientists must find a way out of the rainforest by outsmarting, outrunning and outliving the anacondas.

now showing

MTRCB Rating PG 13

DIAL 8339999 for screening schedules

up next

September 8
Subject to MTRCB Rating

September 15
Subject to MTRCB Rating

September 29
Subject to MTRCB Rating

October 6
Subject to MTRCB Rating

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MECHANICS

1. This promo is open to all Video City members, Smart, Globe, and Sun Cellular subscribers. The service shall use the service number 2910. All messages sent are charged P2.50 for both prepaid and postpaid subscribers & P2.00 for both prepaid and postpaid Sun Cellular subscribers.
2. For every two (2) video rentals (any format) in a single transaction, a Video City member is entitled to a sticker code. This sticker code contains the text code that subscriber will be texting to service #2910. The sticker code will be attached to the receipt that enables the member to join the promo.
3. To join the promo, subscribers must register first and be a Video City member. To be a member of Video City, subscriber must sign up in any Video City Branch. To register a subscriber must key VCT together with the text code indicated in the sticker, letter of the chosen prize, name & address, Video City branch & send to 2910. Registration is free of charge.
   Ex. VCT abc123 A Mike Cruz 45 President's Ave. Parañaque City BF branch
4. Succeeding text code entries need not include registration info.
   Ex. VCT abc123 A
5. After successfully keying in the valid text code, the subscriber will receive the following text message as confirmation.
   EX. 1/2 Ur now registered for the Video City Text-A-Prize promo! Keep your stub n present it when claiming your prize if drawn winner! P2.50/ text. Promo ends Oct. 3. DTI #xxxx
   2/2: Get a chance 2 win Salon GC's/VCD's/free rental daily, 10K/N6600/DVD-VHS player/G-Shock/Baby-G weekly or LG Home Theater/VCD Component in grand draw!
6. There will be two Grand Prizes to choose from, codes as follows:
   A - LG Home Entertainment System consist of 73.66 cm (29") colored TV & Home Theater System (18 winners)
   B - LG VCD Component (18 winners)

Consolation prizes will be:

DAILY PRIZES
- Headway Salon Gift Certificates worth P300 Tomas Morato branch - 45 winners
- Assorted VCD's - 45 winners

WEEKLY PRIZES
- Php 10,000 in cash 18 winners
- Nokia 6600 - 18 winners
- Casio G-Shock watches - 18 winners
- Casio Baby-G watches, 18 winners
- LG DVD/ VHS combo players - 18 winners

7. Promo period is from August 20, 2004 to October 3, 2004 (45 days). Promo is available Nationwide.
8. Daily draws will include all raffle entries earned for the day from 12:01am to 11:59pm. Weekly draws will include all raffle entries earned for the week from 12:01am Friday to 11:59pm Thursday. For the grand draw, all entries earned from 12:01am of Aug 20 to 11:59 pm Oct 3, 2004 will be valid entries for the Grand Draw.
9. All non winning entries per draw will not be included in the succeeding draws but will be included in the grand draw.
10. A participant can win only one daily & weekly prize for the entire promo period. However, a daily & weekly prize winner can still qualify in the grand draw.
11. Only registered participants can win. Registration is one time only, one name per cellphone number only.
12. Winners will be notified through their mobile phones & registered mail. Only subscribers with complete registration information are qualified to win.
13. 20% Tax for prizes exceeding P10,000.00 will be shouldered by the winner. Prizes in kind are not convertible to cash.
14. Drawing of winners will be at Entertainment Gateway Group office at 3rd Flr., Makati Finance Bldg., Makati Ave., Makati City on Aug 30, Sept 6, Sept 13, Sept 20, Sept 27 & Oct 8, 2004 at 5:00pm.
15. Winners must present their active cellphone with the winning SIM card, registered mail, valid stub and valid photo I.D. with signature to collect the prize.
16. Prizes may be claimed at the following:
    Metro Manila c/o Ms. Ana V. Ang - Video City Head Office 7th Floor East Tower P.S.E.C. Exchange Road, Ortigas Center Pasig City
    Luzon/Visayas/Mindanao - at the Video City branch where winner is a member
17. Prizes not claimed within 60 days from receipt of notification shall be forfeited in favor of Viva Video City, Inc. with prior DTI approval.
18. All employees of Entertainment Gateway Group, Smart Communications, Globe Telecom, Sun Cellular and Viva Entertainment Group, including their relatives up to the second degree of consanguinity or affinity are disqualified from participating in this promo.
19. All Nokia handsets (except the Nokia 9210/9210i handsets) are capable of accepting/receiving tones. All Siemens (except the Siemens A35 handset) are capable of accepting/receiving tones. The following Nokia phones are capable of downloading picture messages: 3210, 3310, 3315, 3330, 3350, 5210, 6210, 6250, 6310, 6610, 6100, 6650, 7210, 7650, 8210, 8250, 8310, 8850, 8890 & 8910. For MMS downloads, all MMS-capable Nokia cell phones and Ericsson T68.

LG Life's Good

Pel DTI-NCR Permit No. 4258 Series of 2004

THEATER MOVIE GUIDE

MANILA

EASTERN	
MAXIM	CLOSED
MIRAMAR	SEX BOMB / RAMPADORA
ODEON	X-MEN 2
ODEON-2	BUKID AY BASA / KASIBULAN
ROBEN	BOLD STAR
TANDEM-1	SUGAT
TANDEM-2	KATAWAN MO LANGIT KO
TIMES	SPY / LEGEND OF CROCODILE

QUEZON CITY

ACT-1	SENSUAL ISLAND
ACT-2	KAYA KO PERO MASAKIT
ACT-3	ORIGINAL SIN
ACT-4	HANGGANG KAILAN KA PAPATAY
CORONET A	ALYZS BOMBA QUEEN / DI MAPIGIL NA INIT
CORONET B	A MAN APART
QUEZON-1	BERTUD NG PUTIK
REMAR	X-MEN 2
REMAR-2	BOLD STAR

NOVA MALL - NOVALICHES CINEMA

A	HAMOG
B	CLOSED
C	

MANDALUYONG CITY

SHANGRI-LA PLAZA MALL	635-20-79 / 633-78-51 TO 70
CINEMA 1, 2, 3 & 4	PRINCESS DIARIES 2/ANACONDAS/STEPFORD WIVES/THE NOTEBOOK
PREMIERE THEATRE	SUPER SIZE ME

CAINTA RIZAL

STA. LUCIA EAST	(681-5401 TO 19)
CINEMA-1	NOW THAT I HAVE YOU
CINEMA-2	HAMOG
CINEMA-3	THE VILLAGE
CINEMA-4 (DOLBY DIGITAL)	ANACONDAS
CINEMA-5 (DTS)	SUGAT (RE-ISSUE)
CINEMA-6	BANGKOK HAUNTED 2
CINEMA-7	LAWS OF ATTRACTION
CINEMA-8	THUNDERBIRDS
CINEMA-9 (DTS)	ANACONDAS
CINEMA-10 (DOLBY DIGITAL)	ANACONDAS
CINEMA-11 (SDDS)	PRINCESS DIARIES 2
CINEMA-12	THE NOTEBOOK
CINEMA-14	JANDARA
CINEMA-15	ALIEN VS. PREDATOR

LORES

CINEMA-2	SENSUAL ISLAND
CINEMA-3	KAYA KO PERO MASAKIT

NE CINEMAGIC - CABANATUAN

(LAS PINAS)	ALIEN VS. PREDATOR
CINEMA-1	NOW THAT I HAVE YOU
CINEMA-2	GARFIELD
CINEMA-4	VILLAGE

UNIWIDE COASTAL MALL

(PARANAQUE)	SENSUAL ISLAND
CINEMA-1	KAYA KO PERO MASAKIT
CINEMA-2	MEN IN BLACK II
CINEMA-4	SELDA

POWER PLANT CINEMA
Rockwell Center, Makati City Tel. No: 8981440-41 DOLBY DIGITAL SURROUND-EX

CONNIE AND CARLA PG13 12:00,2:00,4:00, 6:00,8:00,10:00	PRINCESS DIARIES 2 GP 11:45,2:15,4:45,7:15,9:40	THE NOTEBOOK PG-13 12:10,2:40,5:10,7:40,10:10
LAWS OF ATTRACTION PG13 11:50,1:50,3:50, 5:50,7:50,9:50	SUPER SIZE ME GP 1:25,3:35,5:45,7:55,10:05	ANACONDAS PG13 1:20,3:35,5:50,8:05,10:20

MATINEE P80.00 - FREE SEATING - SCREENINGS BEFORE 5 PM - MON. TO FRI.

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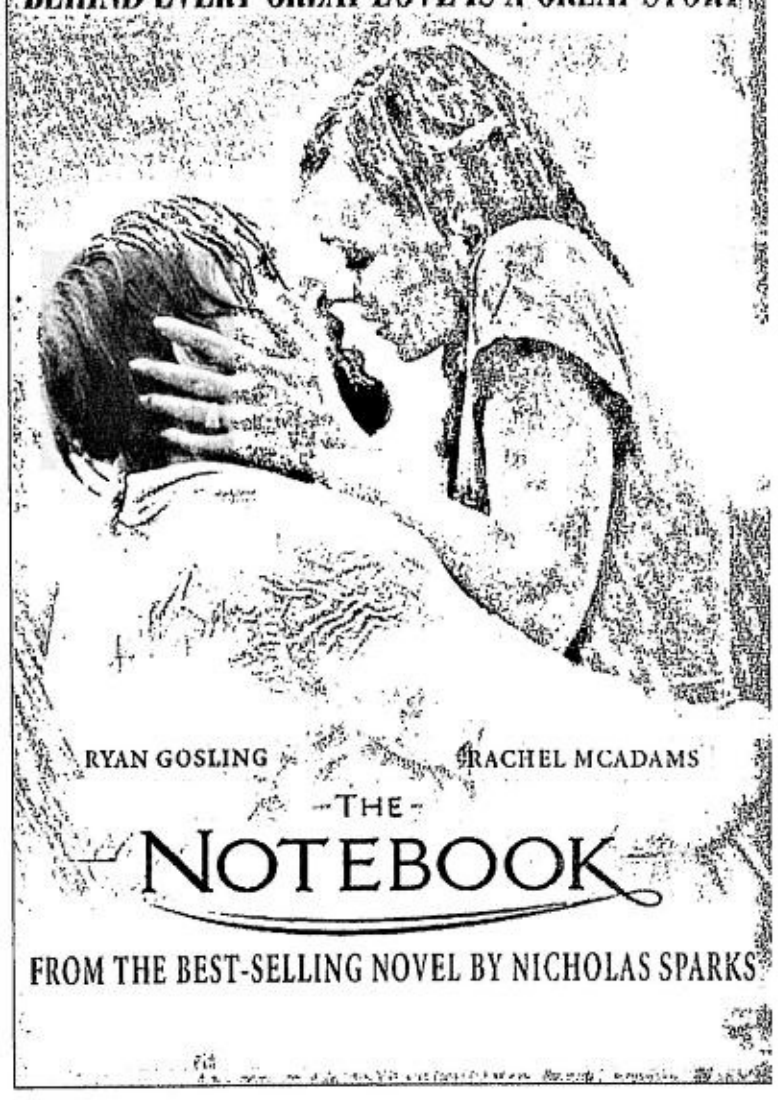
MTRCB RATING ▶ PG-13 STRICTLY FOR 13 YEARS OF AGE AND UP

BEHIND EVERY GREAT LOVE IS A GREAT STORY



RYAN GOSLING RACHEL MCADAMS

THE NOTEBOOK

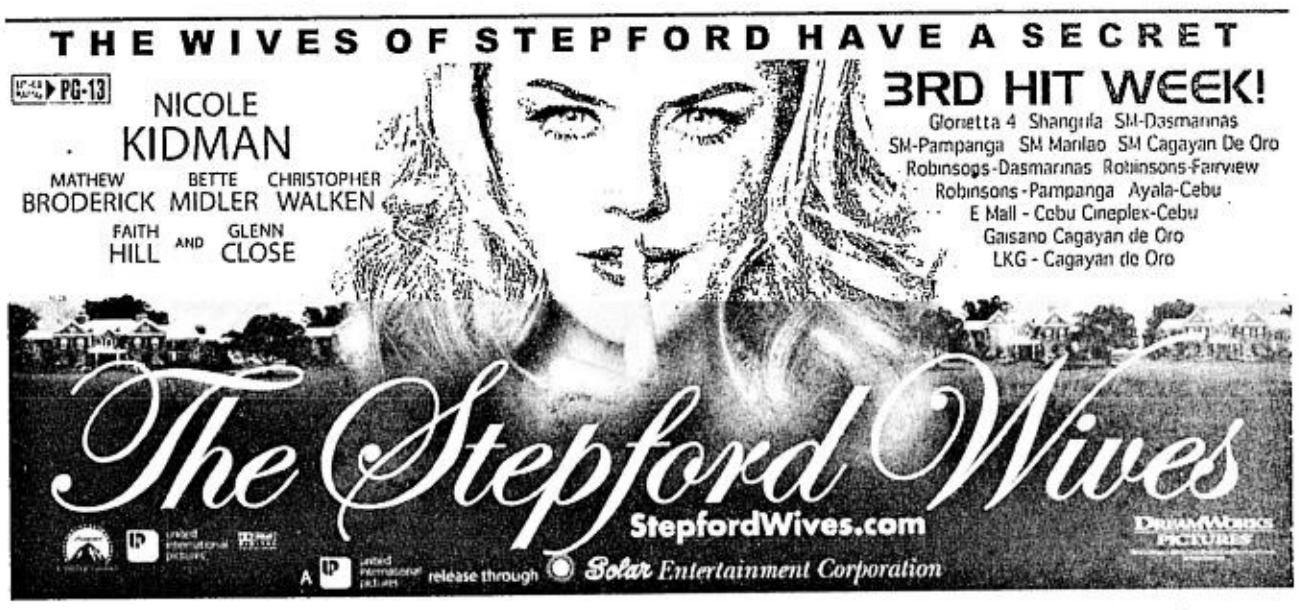
FROM THE BEST-SELLING NOVEL BY NICHOLAS SPARKS

THE WIVES OF STEPFORD HAVE A SECRET

MTRCB RATING ▶ PG-13

NICOLE KIDMAN
MATHEW BRODERICK BETTE MIDLER CHRISTOPHER WALKEN
FAITH HILL AND GLENN CLOSE

3RD HIT WEEK!
Glorietta 4 Shangrila SM-Dasmarinas
SM-Pampanga SM Manlao SM Cagayan De Oro
Robinsons-Dasmarinas Robinsons-Fairview
Robinsons-Pampanga Ayala-Cebu
E Mall - Cebu Cineplex-Cebu
Gaisano Cagayan de Oro
LKG - Cagayan de Oro



MTRCB RATING ▶ G FOR GENERAL AUDIENCE OPENS SEPT. 8

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NOW SHOWING

GALLERIA
632-9115 to 16

CINEMA 1 — THX
1 ANACONDAS 12:10, 2:30, 4:50, 7:10, 9:30
2 THE NOTEBOOK 11:00, 1:45, 4:30, 7:15, 10:00
3 CONNIE AND CARLA 10:20, 12:40, 3:00, 5:20, 7:40, 10:00
4 SUPER SIZE ME 10:45, 1:00, 3:15, 5:30, 7:45, 10:00
5 ANACONDAS 10:20, 12:40, 3:00, 5:20, 7:40, 10:00
6 THE PRINCESS DIARIES 2 11:20, 2:00, 4:40, 7:20, 10.00
7 JANDARA 12:40, 3:00, 5:20, 7:40, 10:00
8 LAWS OF ATTRACTION 12:00, 2:00, 4:00, 6:00, 8:00, 10:00
9 ALIEN VS. PREDATOR 12:40, 3:00, 5:20, 7:40, 10.00
10 THE VILLAGE 12:40, 3:00, 5:20, 7:40, 10:00

MATINEE: Monday to Friday/ 10 am-4pm except holidays
Matinee Price: P80 for one level cinemas
Regular Price: P150 THX / P95/65 for two levels cinemas / P95 for one level cinemas

ERMITA
536-7809 to 12

1 ANACONDAS 10:40, 12:50, 3:00, 5:10, 7:20, 9:40
2 SUPER SIZE ME 10:10, 12:00, 2:00, 4:00, 6:00, 8:00, 9:50
3 THE PRINCESS DIARIES 2 11:30, 2:00, 4:30, 7:00, 9:40
4 ALIEN VS. PREDATOR 10:10, 12:30, 2:50, 5:10, 7:30, 9:50
5 CONNIE AND CARLA 10:20, 12:05, 2:00, 3:55, 5:50, 7:45, 9:40
6 LAWS OF ATTRACTION 11:50, 1:50, 3:50, 5:50, 7:50, 9:50
7 THE NOTEBOOK 11:05, 1:40, 4:15, 6:50, 9:40

METRO EAST
682-8193/99 / 682-8280

1 LAWS OF ATTRACTION 10:50, 12:50, 2:50, 4:50, 6:50, 9:00
2 ALIEN VS. PREDATOR 10:50, 12:50, 2:50, 4:50, 6:50, 9:00
3 THE PRINCESS DIARIES 2 10:05, 12.20, 2.40, 5.00, 7.20, 9.40
4 ANACONDAS 12.20, 2.45, 5.10, 7.35, 10:00
5 ANACONDAS 10.25, 12.50, 3:15, 5.40, 8.05, 10:30
6 THE VILLAGE 10.50, 12:50, 2:50, 4:50, 6.50, 9:00
7 THE NOTEBOOK 12:30, 3:10, 5:50, 9:00
8 JANDARA 11:30, 1:55, 4:20, 6:45, 9:10

NOVALICHES / FAIRVIEW
935-3229 / 31

1 ANACONDAS 11:20, 1:30, 3:40, 5:50, 8:00
2 THE PRINCESS DIARIES 2 11:00, 1:25, 3:50, 6:15, 8:40
3 THE STEPFORD WIVES 11:00, 12:55, 2:50, 4:45, 6:40, 8:35
4 NOW THAT I HAVE YOU 11:30, 1:45, 4:00, 6:15, 8:30
5 ANACONDAS 10:30, 12:35, 2.40, 4:45, 6:50, 8:55
6 LAWS OF ATTRACTION 11.00, 12:55, 2.50, 4.45, 6:40, 8.35
7 ALIEN VS. PREDATOR 10.15, 12:45, 3:15, 5.45, 8.30
8 THE VILLAGE 11:30, 1:45, 4:00, 6:15, 8:30

Citisquare MALABON
288-0985/2575

1 ALIEN VS. PREDATOR
2 THE PRINCESS DIARIES 2
3 ANACONDAS
4 DECOYS

CAINTA
240-4661

1 THE PRINCESS DIARIES 2
2 JANDARA
3 ANACONDAS
4 ALIEN VS. PREDATOR

STA. ROSA
(049)837-0907

1 ALIEN VS. PREDATOR
2 THE PRINCESS DIARIES 2
3 HAMOG
4 DEAD PEOPLE
5 ANACONDAS

LIPA
757-3664 / 312-5870

1 THUNDERBIRDS
2 DEATH CURSE
3 ETERNAL SUNSHINE
4 KARELASYON
5 ALIEN VS. PREDATOR

DASMARIÑAS
852-2125 / 416-4332

1 THE PRINCESS DIARIES 2
2 HAMOG
3 ANACONDAS
4 A CINDERELLA STORY
5 THE STEPFORD WIVES

STARMILLS
Sn Fernando Pampanga
875-1927 / 961-5270

1 ETERNAL SUNSHINE
2 HAMOG
3 PRINCESS DIARIES 2
4 THE STEPFORD WIVES
5 ANACONDAS
6 ANACONDAS

IMUS
471-8188 / 875-5858

1 ANACONDAS
2 ANACONDAS
3 HAMOG
4 ALIEN VS. PREDATOR
5 THE PRINCESS DIARIES 2
6 THUNDERBIRDS

BACOLOD
441-0458/59

1 A CINDERELLA STORY
2 THE VILLAGE
3 THE PRINCE AND ME
4 GARFIELD
5 SYLVIA
6 BANGKOK HAUNTED 2

ILOILO
336-8070/78

1 A CINDERELLA STORY
2 SYLVIA
3 ALIEN VS. PREDATOR
4 THE VILLAGE
5 MAKAMUNDO
6 THUNDERBIRDS

at ROBINSONS MOVIEWORLD

SUPERSIZE ME
A FILM OF EPIC PROPORTIONS

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GALLERIA and ERMITA
MTRCB Rating: G

MOVIES/SCHEDULES/PRICES ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGE WITHOUT PRIOR NOTICE.

See'emall!

AYALA CINEMAS THX

Movies/schedules may change without prior notice. For verification call 729-7777

ATC (Alabang Town Center)	G1 (Glorietta 1)	G4 (Glorietta 4)		GB3 (Greenbelt 3)	ACC (Ayala Center Cebu)
THX 1 ANACONDAS	1 ANACONDAS	1 PRINCESS DIARIES 2	5 ANACONDAS	THX 1 ANACONDAS (Guaranteed Seats) 1 10, 3 20, 5 30, 7 40, 9 50, 12 00	1 ANACONDAS
2 THE NOTEBOOK	2 ALIEN VS. PREDATOR	2 LAWS OF ATTRACTION	6 THE NOTEBOOK	THX 2 THE NOTEBOOK (Guaranteed Seats) 2 00, 4 30, 7 00, 9 30, 12 00	2 A CINDERELLA STORY
3 CONNIE & CARLA		THX 3 ANACONDAS (Guaranteed Seats) 12 30, 2 40, 4 50, 7 00, 9 10, 11 20	7 CONNIE & CARLA	3 CONNIE & CARLA (Guaranteed Seats) 1 05, 3 10, 5 15, 7 20, 9 25, 11.30	3 THE STEPFORD WIVES
4 LAWS OF ATTRACTION	3 THE NOTEBOOK	4 THE STEPFORD WIVES		4 PRINCESS DIARIES 2 (Guaranteed Seats) 2 00, 4 20, 6 20, 9 20, 11:20	4 ETERNAL SUNSHINE
5 PRINCESS DIARIES 2	4 PRINCESS DIARIES 2	GB1 (Greenbelt 1): 1 SUPER SIZE ME 12 20, 2 30, 4 40, 6 50, 9 00; 2 ANACONDAS 12 10, 2 15, 4 25, 6 40, 8 55		5 LAWS OF ATTRACTION (Guaranteed Seats) 1 30, 3 30, 5 30, 7 30, 9 30, 11 30	5 THE VILLAGE

At the Activity Center

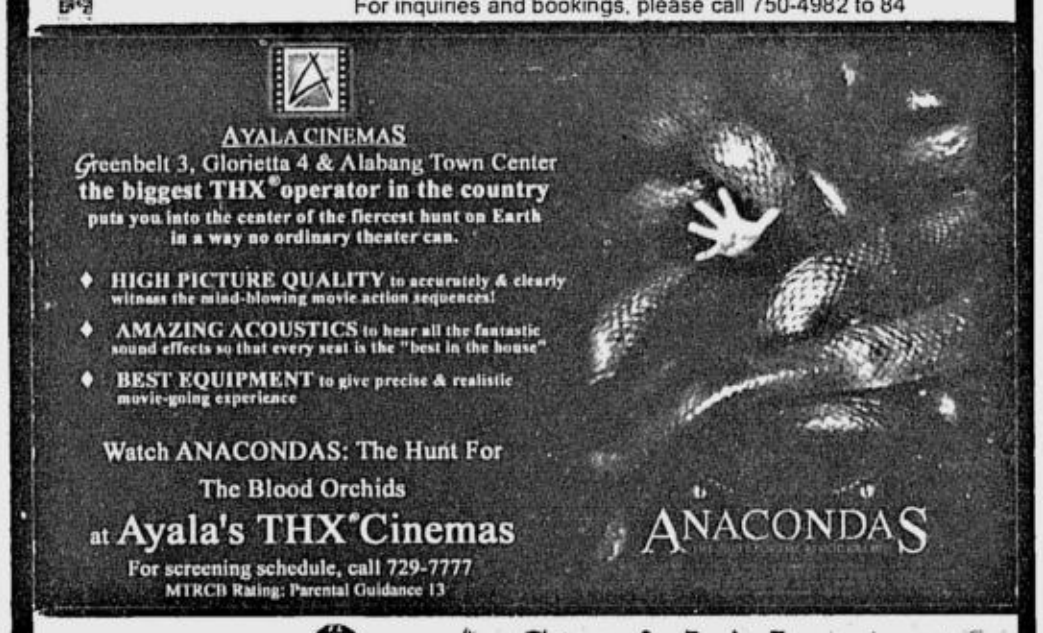
GLORIETTA	ALABANG TOWN CENTER	AYALA CENTER CEBU
BEST OF THE BEST SAMSUNG TAEKWONDO CHAMPIONSHIP September 1 to 5, 2004	NINA LIVE! September 5, 6:00pm	CEBU UNITING FOR SUSTAINABLE WATER PROGRAM September 4, 8:30am to 12noon

ENTERTAINMENT LIVE!

GREENBELT 2	GREENBELT 3
GREENBELT 2: MUSIC STYLES from Thursday to Saturday (7-10pm) feat. The Real Groove (Thu), Acoustic Anthology (Fri), Acoustic Jive W/ May Bayol (Sat)	SAVOUR NATURE EXHIBIT BY WWF PHILIPPINES Greenbelt 3 Lobby, September 1 to 14

Onstage: Rep's Globe Theater presents PINOCCHIO
August 7 to December 12

EXPO: TRADE HALL FOR EXHIBITS, EVENTS AND MORE!
For inquiries and bookings, please call 750-4982 to 84



Special Advance Screenings
September 6 & 7
Alabang Town Center
Glorietta 1
Glorietta 4
Greenbelt 3
MTRCB Rating: Parental Guidance 13
AYALA CINEMAS

THIS WAY TO U.S FOR FREE

CUSTOMER SERVICE TEXT HOTLINE: 0917-6095900 • CUSTOMER SERVICE HOTLINE: Glorietta - 752-7272; from 10am to 8pm • Greenbelt - 757-4853; from 11am to 12mn • Alabang Town Center - 842-2782; from 10am to 8pm Ayala Center Cebu - (032) 231-5342 loc 324 • AYALA CINEMA LINKS: For screening times call 729-7777. Reserve your seats by texting SURESEATS GB3 or SURESEATS G4 to 2333 (Globe) or 211 (Smart). Or log on to www.sureseats.com for web reservations.

AYALA CENTER | ALABANG TOWN CENTER | AYALA CENTER CEBU

Love'emall!

OLMOS. Tour-de-force performance.

Beyond cinematic junk food

By Nestor U. Torre

(Conclusion)

HERE are other movies that inspire and improve our outlook on life:

"All the President's Men." Spellbinding political thriller based on the book written by reporters Bob Woodward and Carl Bernstein, who broke open the Nixon administration's Watergate scandal.

"The Autobiography of Miss Jane Pittman." Cicely Tyson is remarkable as a former slave whose 110-year life mirrors the civil rights struggle in the US.

"Billy Budd." Peter Ustinov is outstanding as the kindly captain who must choose between naval law and his own conscience.

Aspiring writer

"Biloxi Blues." Matthew Broderick plays an innocent aspiring writer who endures the humiliations of Army basic training.

"The Black Stallion." From its young protagonist's touching reunion with his mother and his adventures with a wise old horse-trainer, to the rousing climax at a racing championship, this production is one of the finest children's movies of all time.

"The Caine Mutiny." The riveting story of the crew of a World War II escort ship who must mutiny against their mentally-imbalanced captain.

"The Candidate." A sharply observed look behind the scenes of a big-time political campaign that finds real drama in the give-and-take between the ideals and the realities of power politics.

"Casablanca." The heart-rending love story between a nightclub owner (Humphrey Bogart) and his former flame (Ingrid Bergman), set against the war-torn backdrop of Casablanca.

Teacher

"Stand and Deliver." Edward James Olmos gives a tour-de-force performance in this outstanding drama as a tough, demanding teacher who inspires his East L.A. barrio students to pass an Advanced Placement Calculus Test— and that's only the beginning of the film's inspiring story.

"How Green Was My Valley." Moving drama from Richard Llewellyn's story about Welsh coal miners, centering on Donald Crisp's large, close-knit family. Beautifully filmed and lovingly directed, John Ford's celebrated 1941 production won five Academy Awards, including best picture.

"Bridge on the River Kwai." British soldiers in a Japanese prison camp build a bridge as a morale booster—under the singleminded leadership of British colonel Alec Guinness—as William Holden and Jack Hawkins plot to destroy it. Psychological battle of wills combined with high-powered action sequences make this an exceptionally powerful film.

Isla TV reaches out to young viewers

By Noelani Torre

AYALA. Featured in "Pinoy World Beat."

WHEN we describe the state of Philippine television today, "socially responsible" is definitely not the first term that comes to mind.

There are socially responsible programs being aired, but their voices are overpowered by the shrill, excessively glamorized, and mostly shallow din that is popular *Pinoy* TV.

It has thus been both a relief and a pleasure to discover the refreshing shows of Isla TV, the country's first advocacy channel.

Goals

We've all caught some of their programs some time or other, but what most of us don't fully appreciate is that Isla has serious goals in mind.

"We want to show people that there are Filipinos worth emulating," says Ed Santoalla, managing director of Isla TV. "This is about uplifting individuals — ordinary people who aren't waiting for an external power to make things better, but are instead coming up with their own solutions."

Isla's tagline is "Together, we can be one island." It aims to realize this by showing audiences what the Filipino can do. Hence, they feature individuals, groups, and communities that are making a difference in various areas through their own self-formulated projects and campaigns.

These features are divided into categories: Teknika, Komunidad, Medika, Ekolohiya, Kultura, Pangarap — all of which are meant to give hope and inspire action.

These are worthy goals, to be sure, but it takes more than noble intentions to attract audiences. Isla was created by CCI Asia, the same group that has given us Lakbay TV and, more recently, the Living Asia Channel. Its viewership has tended towards the upper brackets.

Format

This isn't surprising considering the format (documentary) and the language (English), but Isla wants to reach a much wider audience, especially the youth.

With this in mind, the makers of Isla are doing a little reformatting. For one, they're planning to modify the language, to make it a more "relaxed" kind of English (meaning, it has some Filipino mixed in). They're spicing things up by adding a new program, "Isla Musik," which will no doubt appeal to those of us weaned on music television, but who nevertheless crave something more substantial.

We were able to view the yet-unedited maiden episode set to premiere this month, "Pinoy World Beat." It features independent, alternative, and underground Pinoy musicians like Grace Nono, Noel Cabangon and Joey Ayala, and we have high hopes for its success.

Interest

Hosted by Jana Abrera-del Prado, "Pinoy World Beat" opened with the attention-getting latest video from the hard-to-label band, Radioactive Sago Project. With our interest thus engaged, it neatly shifted gears to a mini-documentary on the featured music.

The program is meant to run along thematic lines. Future episodes include Pinoy acoustic, punk, and karaoke. With its MTV-style editing and engaging mix of videos, commentary and interviews, the program is bound to go down well with all

ISLA/ A28

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4 SDDS JANDARA
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5 dts ALIEN vs PREDATOR
12:10 pm 2:25 pm 4 :40 pm 6:55 pm 9:10 pm

6 DS Dolby THE NOTEBOOK
11:00 am 1:30 pm 4:00 pm 6:30 pm 9:00 pm

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SATURDAY Special

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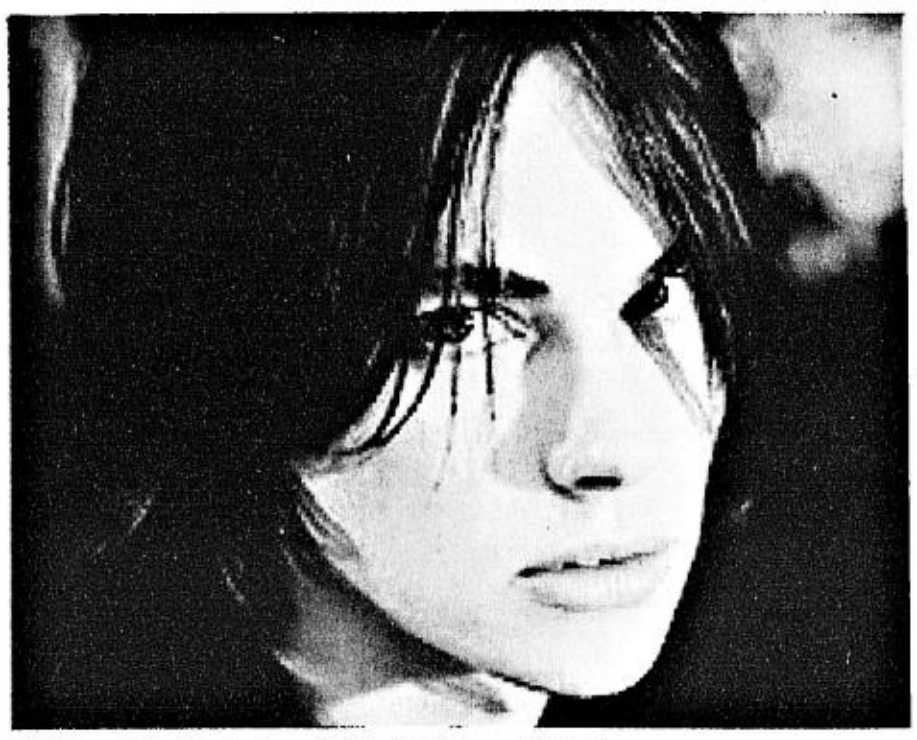
Ben Jelen is more than just a pretty face

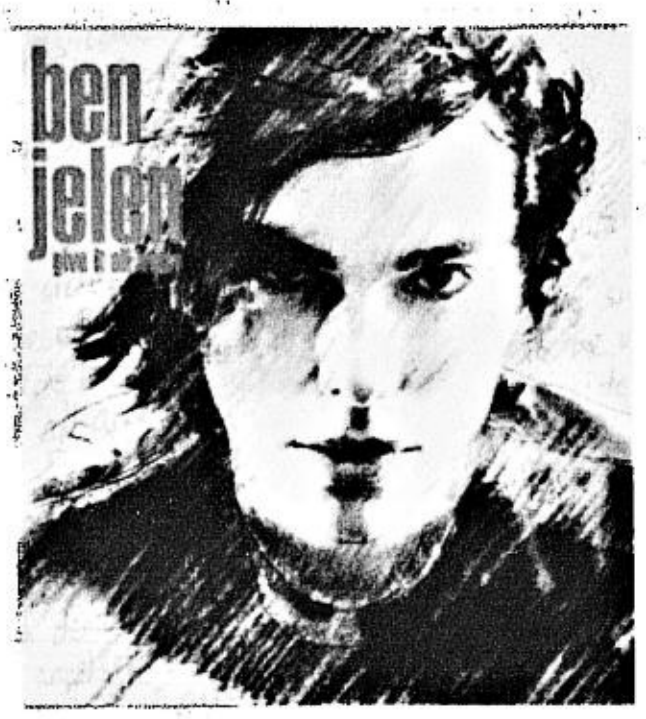
By Noelani Torre

GOOD looks aren't always an asset, even in the increasingly beauty-obsessed world of pop music. Take Ben Jelen, for example. The twentysomething American singer has the face of a runway model — and his production team is milking it for all its worth.

Though his looks have certainly gotten him more attention, it has also prompted the more jaded to dismiss him as just another pretty, but essentially untalented wannabe.

The fact that his PR team has been working overtime hasn't helped, either — after all, says one unconverted critic, there's surely no need for glamorizing hype if the guy's really good.





JELEN and his debut album, "Give It All Away" (right).

Substantial

There is something under all that suspicious gloss, however, and it's substantial enough to merit Jelen something more than a critical write-off.

The fact of the matter is that the guy is good. In his debut album, "Give It All Away," he shows us that his to-die-for cheekbones aren't his only assets.

He also has a winsome voice, a graceful piano-playing style, an ear for catchy tunes, and an honest, earnest attitude that cuts through the layers of corporate luster that his handlers have coated him in.

Jelen writes his own music (though he shares co-writing credit for some of them), and he's also had a hand in the production. These things tell us that he's a cut above your usual pop star hopeful.

Most of us have probably heard the carrier single, "Come On," or seen its charming piano-of-all-tricks video.

A perfect example of the kind of music you'll hear in this album, the piano-driven first track has sincere lovelorn lyricizing, and a hook-laden chorus, and is generally appealing.

Impressive

Polished to a high sheen by Jelen's impressive production team — which includes mixer Jack Joseph Puig, well-known for his work with No Doubt and Beck — the song is indicative of the album's quality.

We're of two minds about this particular feature. It makes for a glitch-free listening experience, to be sure, but its very smoothness also works against it.

It's stripped Jelen's music of much of its individuality, and we have to listen hard before we can truly conclude that Ben Jelen really has something that other pop stars don't have.

The addition of producers like The Matrix (Christina Aguilera, Avril Lavigne, Liz Phair) and the Berman Brothers into the mix ensures high technical quality all throughout.

We feel, however, that the music would have fared better if they'd kept a lighter touch on things.

Jelen's music is the kind that flourishes in simplicity. It has an intimate quality to it that is obscured and at times completely lost with big production.

Still, this is an engaging record, and it will no doubt go down well with those of us inclined towards the sappy and the romantic, as love is more or less the album's main theme.

It's Jelen's sincere approach that saves the day. It's a quality lacking in most pop productions, and the fact that Jelen has it in spades rids his music of its homogeneous feel, and makes him stand out.

It also makes it easier to swallow his less successful attempts at lyric writing. He still has a long way to go in this direction, but we can forgive him his unimpressive meanderings into pseudo-poetry territory because it really does feel like he means what he's singing.

Nonetheless, our favorite track in this album is its sole cover song, the Stephen Trask original, "Wicked Little Town," from the rock musical "Hedwig and the Angry Inch."

A bright, melodious number, Jelen highlights its luminous quality by softening his rendition. The fact that they pretty much left him alone to do his thing here also contributed to our enjoyment.

Features

Among the interesting features in "Give It All Away" are the Celtic touches that crop up here and there, and are particularly evident in album-ender, "Setting of the Sun."

The itinerant Jelen lived in Scotland some time ago, and he lets us hear some of its influences on him (via guitar and violin, both of which he also plays), but these are subtly done and are therefore more effective.

Not quite having known what to expect, we were neither disappointed nor particularly impressed with "Give It All Away."

It's a well-crafted album and Jelen has potential, but there's nothing revolutionary about it, either.

Still, we don't really expect every new album to break new ground, and Jelen has done a pretty good job covering the old.

Isla TV . . .

From page A27

sorts of viewers, not only the young.

Isla Musik aims to feature everything Pinoy in music. This includes not only popular musical genres, but also traditional forms like the *kundiman* and the rondalla.

Good news

This ties in very well with Isla's "good news" programming that the late CCI Asia chair Carlos "Caloy" Abrera instilled in the staff of Isla.

"We're not out to change the world," says his daughter and CCI Asia PR Jana del Prado, "just to contribute a little."

Other new documentaries airing this month include "To Thyself, Be True" and "The Healing Power of Food," airing on Medika. Isla TV is showing in one-hour strips on NBN Channel 4, 12-1 pm, Mondays to Fridays, and on Zoe Channel 11, 7-8 pm, Monday-Wednesday-Friday.

Facing death

LOTUS POND

R. Valencia and S. Bismark

I HAVE friends who make it their humanitarian service to help prepare people to face death. Of course, that's easier said than done. Here are important points to consider:

1. Do not add to the person's agony by crying hysterically, and causing him grief in seeing you suffer. If you feel like crying, leave his presence and grieve privately.

Beyond our control

2. Allow the person to leave peacefully and freely. Death is beyond our control. Do not beg the person to stay on longer when it is obvious that his body is no longer habitable. Accept this reality.

3. Do not cheat and lie to a person in distress. Truth will set us free. The sooner we know it, the more prepared we can be in coping with and facing reality.

4. Extinguish fear and anxiety with wisdom and compassion. Explain to the dying person that his material body is not him. He is an eternal spiritual being who will not die. For his journey, he must take shelter in the holy names of the Supreme Being. (My friends teach the names "Gopala Govina Rama Madana Mohana." God is the supreme protector, bestower of happiness and is the most attractive.)

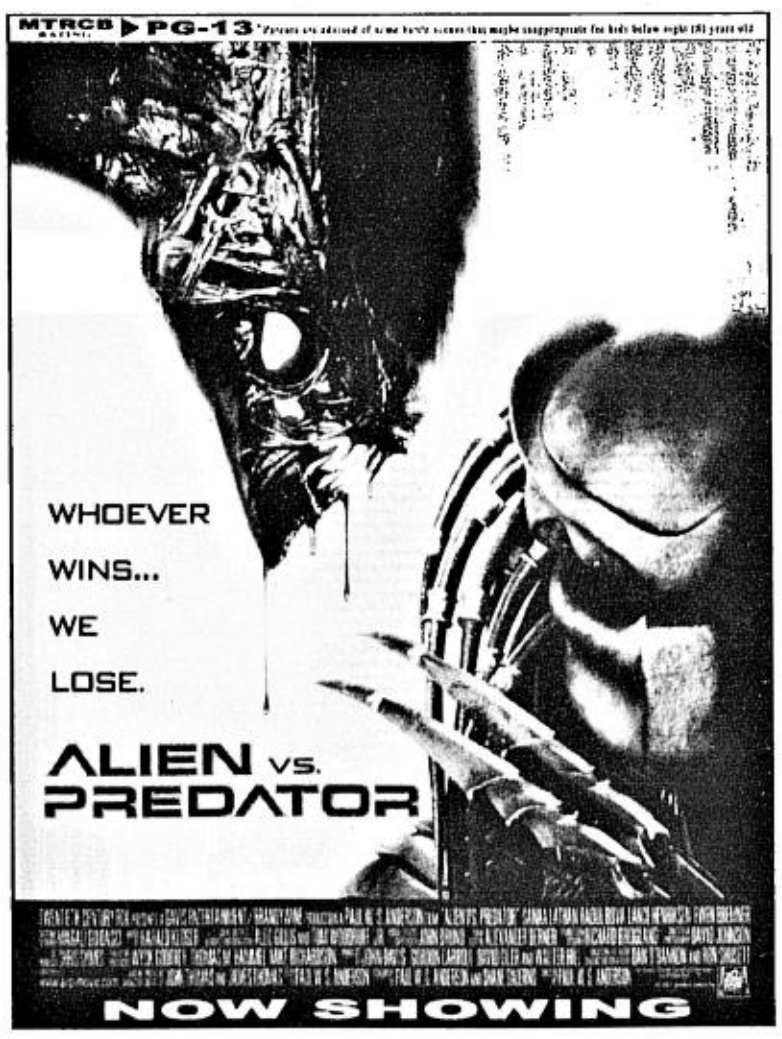
5. Stop playing the superhero. There are forces beyond our control. We are helpless to stop death. Do not make false promises that you can't keep. Accept our limitations—don't give false hopes to those whose time has come.

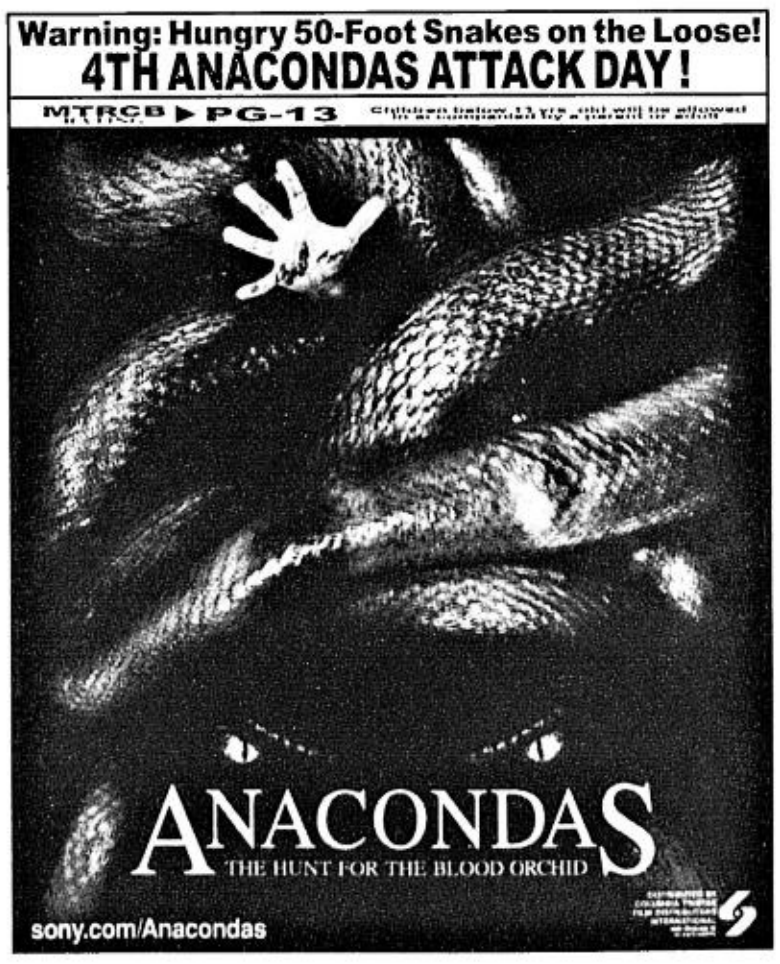
Messages

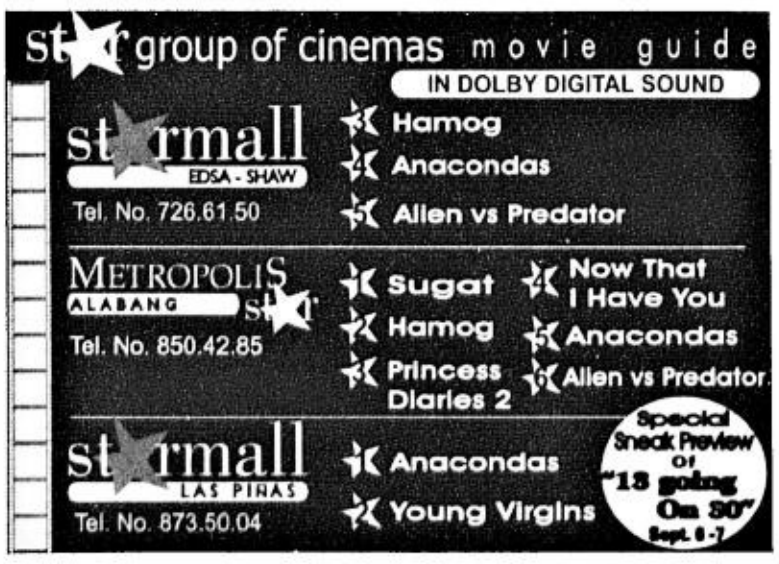
6. Don't gossip. A person may be comatose, but he may be able to hear what is being said around him, even if he can no longer respond. Do not discuss hospital bills, family problems, political or show biz gossip. Convey sobering messages of spiritual truths to him. Tell him to take shelter in the Supreme Friend.

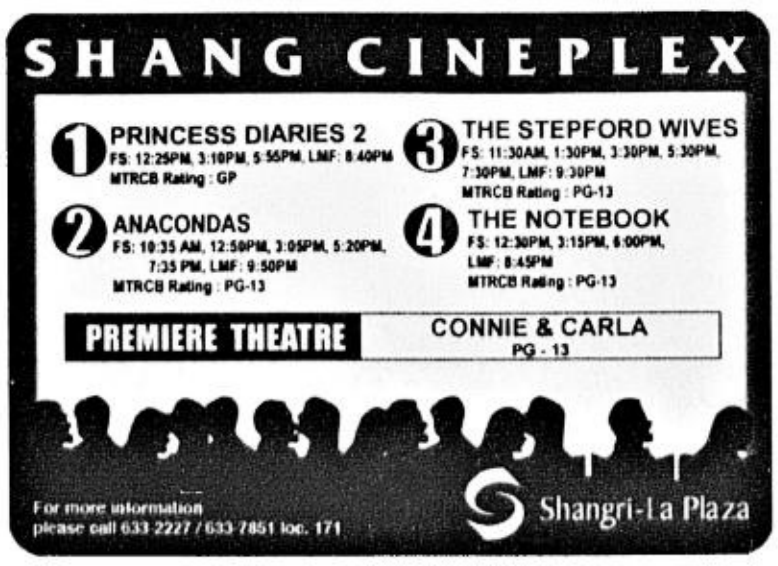
7. Let his consciousness be fixed on the spiritual dimension. Do not drag him to the agitations of the material world.

8. Beg forgiveness. And allow him to ask forgiveness from those he has offended. To forgive and be forgiven are acts of true friendship.









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NOW SHOWING

Heart and soul in schmaltzy melodrama

By Rito P. Asilo

"The Notebook"

D: Nick Cassavetes
S: Ryan Gosling, Rachel McAdams

An old man (James Garner) reads entries from a handwritten journal to an old woman (Gena Rowlands) stricken with the degenerative Alzheimer's disease. At the end of the day, she forgets the story and even asks who the old man is. So, he goes back every single day to read her the same tale, and hopes that, one day, he wouldn't have to tell it to her anymore.

The story he reads follows the passionate summer romance of a poor boy, Noah (Ryan Gosling, "Murder by Numbers"), and a rich girl, Allie (Rachel McAdams), estranged by wealth and circumstance. Trouble is, the fateful meeting of Noah and Allie isn't just a summer fling: They fall head over heels in love with each other!

She is sent away as he pines for her. Everyday for a year, he writes to her, while she waits to hear from him—for seven years! But, she never gets his letters. When she meets a rich, handsome, kind soldier (James Marsden) who loves her to bits, she decides to move on.

McADAMS AND GOSLING. Gutsy performances.

One day, two newspaper articles make their paths cross again: Noah reads about Allie's engagement, and she reads about the beautiful 200-year-old house Noah has restored for her! So, they decide to meet up and say their final goodbyes.

Yes, Cassavetes' film, based on the novel by Nicholas Sparks, is unapologetically weepy, and is filled with sappy, predictable sentimentality. But, like Mandy Moore's "A Walk to Remember," this romantic tale is lifted above maudlin schmaltz with the help of a straightforward, no-frills narrative; lyrical, dreamy photography; a moody score; wonderful servings of Walt Whitman's "Leaves of Grass," and its leads' moving performances:

McAdams proves that she can go beyond "Mean Girls"; Garner and Rowlands deliver luminous portrayals that touch and stir the heart and soul, and Gosling, whose earnest, gutsy performance makes you root for his character, transcends the sudsy material.

Once again, he proves that he is one of the best actors of his generation. Go catch "The Notebook." Just a word of advice: Bring a thick hanky!

"Connie and Carla"

D: Michael Lembeck
S: Nia Vardalos, Toni Collette

Nia Vardalos and Toni Collette play their roles with enthusiasm and verve, especially when they dish out the smashing show tunes that their characters sing in the movie.

On the run from mobsters after they witness a murder, the singing duo pass themselves off as female impersonators, who quickly find a little bit of fame and fortune in the local gay scene! Then, Connie (Vardalos) gets her cinematic dilemma when she meets the handsome Jeff (a charming albeit decorative David Duchovny).

Problem is, he's a straight guy who's coming to terms with his gay brother's "alternative" lifestyle. So, how does she get her man without blowing her cover?

The quirky pair delivers (especially Collette, the more skilled actress)—but, the film swishes (no pun intended) between good and bad. The movie is a mishmash of derivative, predictable plotlines devoid of originality. Cameo alert: Debbie Reynolds.

The film's humor initially amuses, and then it loses steam, mainly because you've seen and heard most of the gags before. (And, somehow, it's hard to suspend disbelief that Duchovny would fall for Vardalos—be she woman or man. Eat your heart out, Yentl!)

If you're ready for some campy fun, this movie is for you. But, don't say we didn't warn you!

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30 Cinemalaya semi-finalists chosen

By Nestor U. Torre

LAST Aug. 31, the selection committee of the Cinemalaya filmmaking competition met at the offices of the Film Development Council of the Philippines to choose the semi-finalists in the tilt's full-length film category.

The committee members had a daunting task, because they had to read 190 synopses to come up with their list of semi-finalists. The number of synopses submitted from all over the country was much larger than envisioned, but the selectors went through them with enthusiasm and determination.

Deliberation process

After a long and detailed deliberation process, they opted to increase the number of semi-finalist synopses from 20 to 30, because there were many deserving entries.

The 30 semi-finalists are (in no particular order): "Only in the Philippines," by Richard V. Somes; "Baryoke," by Ron Bryant; "Joey," by Rowena G. Dimaguilla; "The Love of Carlos," by Harold Bayang; "Mandaragat," by Rene Guevarra; "Salimisim," by Rommel Tolentino; "Unyo," by Frederick Castro and Melchor Berja; "Rantay Papan Djay Bangir," by Kawayan de Guia; "Ang Pagdadalaga ni Maximo Oliveros," by Michiko Yamamoto; "Isnatchers," by Michael Angelo P. Dagñalan and Rodolfo 'Jun' Aves Jr.; "Artispisyal na Ilaw (Anatoniya ng Jologs)," by Joshua Bartlome and Soliman Cruz;

"Diliman Mainstream," by Pia R. Roxas; "Barber's Cut," by Jun Lana; "Taga-Guimba (The Drummer Man)," by Cirio Ray Defante-Gibraltar; "Ang Mga Kidnaper ni Ronnie Lazaro," by Sigfried Barros-Sanchez; "Angela—The Bading Assassin, A Musical," by Francis Hechanova; "Big Time," by Mario Cornejo; "Bahay-bahayan," by Eliza Cornejo; "CB,' by Jade Francis C. Castro;

"Sa Aking Paggising Mula sa Kamulatan," by Renato M. Baustista Jr.; "Unang Patak ng Ulan sa Buwan ng Mayo," by Cenon Obispo Palomares; "ICU Bed #7," by Rica Arevalo; "86 Jupiter Street," by Roan Belle Ng; "Room Boy," by Alfred Aloysius Adlawan; "The Light," by Jay Abello; "Third World," by Topel Lee; "Lasponggols," by Sigfried Barros-Sanchez; "Pepot Artista," by Clodualdo del Mundo Jr.; "Sarong Bangi (One Night)," by Emman Dela Cruz; "Di-in Na Si Francis? (Where us Francis?)," by Gabriel Fernandez.

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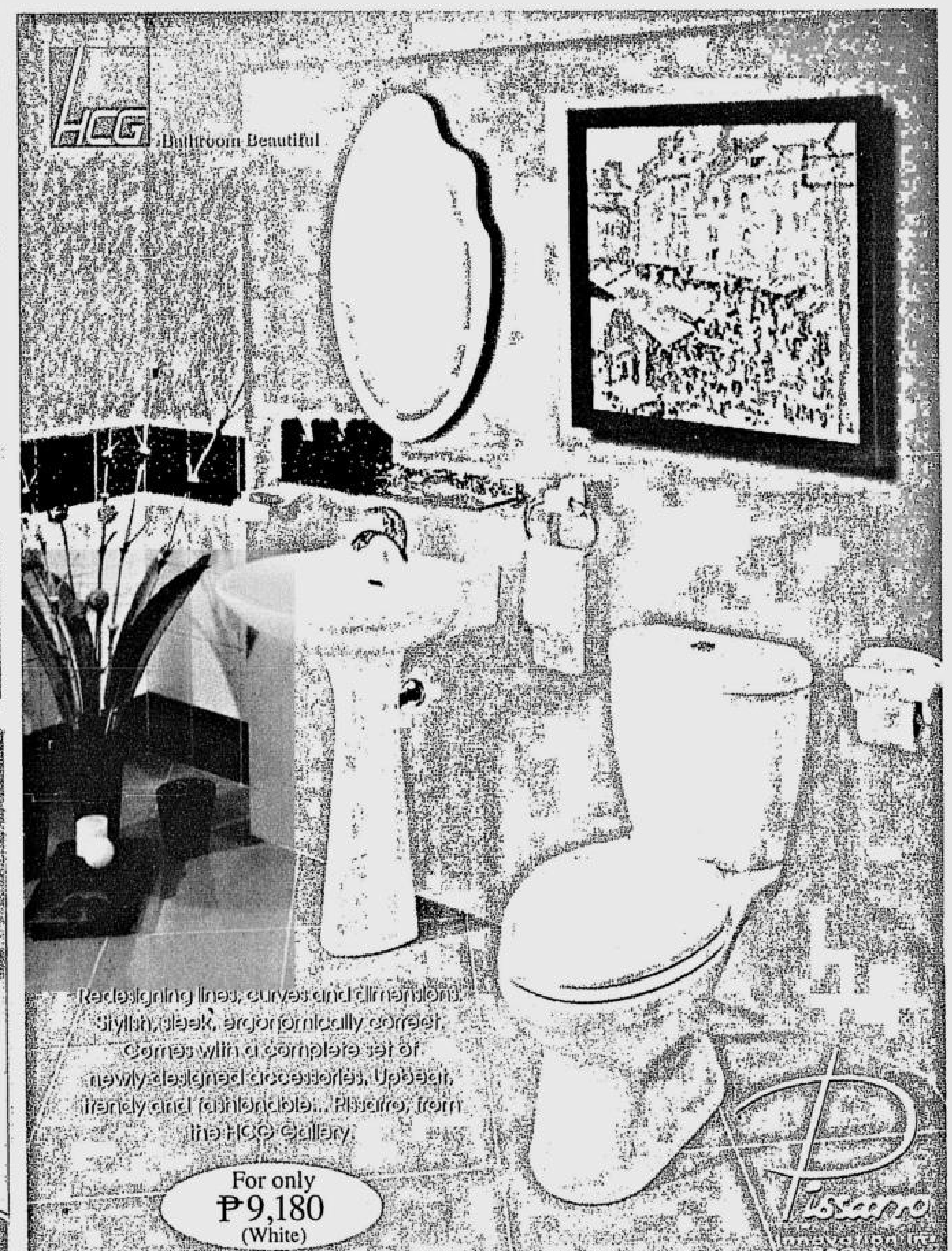

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Artists' Equity initiatives stepped up

By Nestor U. Torre

OPM president Mitch Valdes is shown with Immigration commissioner Alipio Fernandez (center) and AMP vice chairman John Lesaca (right).

FOR a long time now, we've bewailed the foreign "invasion" of the local entertainment scene, which has reduced the career prospects and income of Filipino performing talents.

When so many foreign bands and solo singers perform at the best and biggest venues in town, local talents are occasionally reduced to front acts, second bananas and country cousins.

This sends out the negative subliminal message to local fans that "imported" is best, which feeds on and, in turn, exacerbates our "deathless" colonial mentality.

Homegrown talents

Only when local fans believe that our homegrown talents are at least at par with star singers from abroad will our entertainment industry truly come into its own.

Will the dismal situation ever improve? Happily, some inroads have been made—nowhere near enough, but heartening enough to inspire all determined agents of change not to lose heart, and to keep trying to even up the psychic score.

Recently, for instance, the Organisasyon ng Pilipinong Mang-aawit and the Asosasyon ng Musikong Pilipino inked an agreement with the Bureau of Immigration to promote their Artists' Equity Program.

Under the agreement signed last Aug. 17, OPM and AMP will serve as clearing houses for the entry of foreign performing artists who want to work professionally in the Philippines.

Organizations

The two organizations will coordinate with local and foreign producers who intend to bring foreign singers, instrumentalists, back-up vocalists and bands into the country. Endorsements by OPM and AMP are required before Immigration issues working permits to foreign performers.

OPM head Mitch Valdes hails the agreement as an important step in protecting Filipino talents' rights and welfare, in the wake of the renewed influx of foreign performers, to the disadvantage of their local counterparts.

Measures

Mitch stresses, "We are simply trying to level the playing field. We aren't opposed to foreign talents coming to perform here, but measures have to be put in place to ensure an environment where both the artistry and business interests of Filipino talents and their producers are protected."

AMP Vice Chairman John Lesaca adds that the Equity Program works very much like those in other countries. He observes, "Filipino musicians, singers and actors are also subject to Equity regulations imposed on us when we perform abroad. It ensures that artists there are provided ample protection against possible loss of income opportunities owing to the popularity of foreign performers over local ones."

Mandate

Immigration Commissioner Alipio Fernandez stresses that the agreement adds teeth to the bureau's mandate to regulate foreign employment here, and also manifests the government's commitment to protect the livelihood of Filipino artists.

In other related initiatives, OPM and AMP have pioneered in artists' rights protection and the anti-music piracy campaign.

With the support of President Gloria Macapagal Arroyo and the National Commission for Culture and the Arts, OPM has launched the Registry of Filipino Musical Artists and Their Works, an omnibus publication and online database project.

It can be accessed online at www.opm.org.ph or www.philmusicregistry.com. Interested parties can contact OPM at 721-1765 or e-mail opm@tri-isys.com.

CBCP sets new 'Catholic TV Advocacy' seminar Sept. 17-18

LAST June, the Office on Women of the Catholic Bishops Conference of the Philippines held a very successful seminar, "Catholic Advocacy for Television in the Philippines," at the Pope Pius Center.

The pioneering seminar effectively sought to understand television in all its aspects as it is currently being practised in the Philippines, with the view in mind of objectively and proficiently evaluating the effect of TV programs, particularly on young viewers.

It then went on to launch a new Catholic initiative for regular TV assessment and review, for the guidance of parents and educators who are concerned about what children and youth viewers watch.

Success

The seminar's success has prompted requests for another workshop, so the CBCP Office on Women is again holding a seminar on "Catholic Advocacy for Television in the Philippines" on Sept. 17 and 18 (Friday and Saturday), this time at the Office on Women offices at the CBCP compound, 470 Gen. Luna st., Intramuros, Manila. Call 527-1925, 527-8031 or 0927-644-7300 for details.

The new seminar will have Nestor U. Torre as its facilitator. Torre is well-known and respected as a TV host ("Two for the Road"), award-winning TV scriptwriter and director, and editor of the Saturday Special section of the Philippine Daily Inquirer, where he writes "Viewfinder," which has won the CMMA's Best Entertainment Column award.

In addition, he has written and directed acclaimed religious musicals like "Magnificat," "Nasaan si Hesus" and "Bakhita," and has held workshops for scriptwriters and directors which have produced outstanding graduates.

Impact

The Sept. 17-18 seminar is being organized by Zenaida V. Rotea, MD. Topics to be tackled include the impact of mass media, the local context of TV production today, TV language and how it affects viewers' sensibilities, components of child-friendly television, comparative viewing of TV shows, analysis and evaluation of programs, and the reactive and proactive dimensions of the CBCP's Catholic Advocacy for Television.

Limited slots are available, so please call now.

From students to colleagues

By Behn Cervantes

(Conclusion)

VERY quickly, Anton Juan was directing with fervor, much appreciated for his innovativeness, and living up to his *enfant terrible* reputation.

He would laugh hard, work assiduously, discuss with fire while making sure he was a distinct presence no matter what. He was much appreciated and critically praised. I directed him once more in Tony Perez' "Panginoon Sa Driod," but by then, he was well on his own.

Nude scenes

These days, Anton is "infamous" for including nude scenes in his productions— I wonder if that was due to my influence in "Apollo of Bellac."

On the other hand, as a regular Sigma Delta Sorority director, I was commissioned to mount "Once Upon a Mattress." I needed a dancer-singer with true comedic skills for the difficult role of the princess. The role was created by Carol Burnett.

I found the prince in Alfie Kwong, and the romantic lead in Boy Camara. Nelia Sancho, Alice Saballones and Marilou Matti were aptly cast as medieval damsels, but I needed my princess!

Dancer

Finally, I decided to try out Ester Rimpos, then a primary dancer of the Cultural Center of the Philippines.

Her dancing skill was great, as expected, but she had a surprisingly good singing voice, too!

With a dancer's discipline and dedication, she applied her soul to the show's acting demands, although it took her sometime to believe that she was playing the lead.

Hesitant star

In fact, she was a hesitant star—eager to work quietly, and with as little fuss as possible. When publicity material was requested, she was shy about divulging her outstanding credentials.

In no time, however, Esther was included in the "Who's Who of Ballet in the World"!

Many years later, she danced Anton Juan's ballet version of "Yerma," a Garcia Lorca play I staged in 1969 with Carol de la Paz.

The cycle had come full circle when Anton directed me in "Oedipus Rex" and "Portrait of An Artist as Filipino," because, by then, the student had become a colleague, and a good friend.

YOUR WEEKLY TV GUIDE FROM SEPT 4 - SEPT 10

CH	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
[illegible]	6 30 Star in A Million 7 30 TV Patrol 8 00 Magandang Gabi, Bayan 9 00 Home Along da Airport 10 00 Victim 11 00 Kontrobersyal 11:30 Sports Unlimited	6 00 National Geographic 7.00 Yan Ang Pinoy 8:00 Search for the 1st Tanduay Billiards Player	6 00 Asian 9 Ball 7.00 Viva Box Office *Darna, Ang Pagbabalik* 9 00 Sing Galing 10 00 Maverick & Ariel 10.30 ABC Treats' *An Affair to Remember*	5 30 Pinoy Pop Superstar 6.30 Bitoy's Funniest Videos 7:30 Extra Challenge 8 15 Imbestigador 9.30 Idol Ko Si Kap 11:10 Kakabakaba Adventures	6 00 Isumbong Mo Kay Tulfo 7 00 7 Days 8 00 John Doe 9.00 Saturday Night Playhouse 11 00 PGMA	6 00 Jobs and Visa Central 7 00 Bilag 8.00 Ugnayang Pambansa 9 00 D E N R. 10.00 El Shaddai	5 00 Sports TV 6 30 Game Plan 7 00 7th Heaven 7 45 Boston Public 8 45 America's Next Top Model 9 30 Studio 23 Presents 11 15 Reel Deel	6 00 Agila Reports 6 30 Screen Savers 7 30 Euromaxx 8 00 Car Guys 8 30 DWTV Journal 9 00 Ang Tamang Daan 10 00 Pasugo	6 00 RJ Music Videos 9 00 Music Videos 10 00 Music Videos 11 00 Music Videos
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Spellbinding films on the Hallmark Channel

SPELLBINDING movie treats on the Hallmark Channel's 9 p.m. "Movie Premieres" slot this month include "Frankenstein," "Gunpowder, Treason and Plot," "King Solomon's Mines" and "Have Mercy."

"Frankenstein," Sept. 9 and 10, retells Mary Shelley's timeless cautionary tale on the wages of arrogance. With William Hurt and Donald Sutherland.

MONTAGE

"Gunpowder, Treason and Plot," Sept. 16 and 17, is on the eventful life of Mary, Queen of Scots, from her halcyon youth in France and her incessant struggle for power, to her eventful triumph against her foes.

"King Solomon's Mines," Sept. 23 and 24, is a new version of the famous adventure film, with Patrick Swayze playing renowned explorer Allan Quatermain, who brooked no opposition or danger in his quest for the fabulous mines in the dark heart of Africa.

"Have Mercy," Sept. 30, is about a woman's desperate journey out of madness. With Alisa Weigers and Catherine McNally.

RUFFALO. Stars in "13 Going on 30."

BAUTISTA. Sings at Richmonde Hotel.

SWAYZE. Portrays Allan Quatermain.

Movies on TV

On Cinemax, Sept. 4 at 6:50, "The Screaming Room: Books into Horror." Sept. 5 at 7:50 p.m., "True Crime." Sept. 6 at 11:30 a.m., "Splendor in the Grass." Sept. 7 at 2 p.m., "Mandela and De Klerk." Sept. 8 at 6:30 a.m., "Thoroughly Modern Milly." Sept. 9 at 11:50 p.m., "City by the Sea." Sept. 10 at 4:45 p.m., "The Prince of Tides."

Tribute to Pitoy

Imelda O. Cojuangco is chairperson of the gala night committee spearheading the project "Ginintuang Moreno: A Tribute to J. Moreno," slated on Oct. 26 and 27 at the Cultural Center of the Philippines. The event honors the work and achievements of premier Filipino designer Jose "Pitoy" Moreno.

With Cojuangco in the committee are CCP chair Emily A. Abrera, CCP president Nestor O. Jardin, and CCP trustees Behn Cervantes, Lorna P. Kapunan, Jaime C. Laya, Martin Lopez, Teresita O. Luz, Ruperto S, Nicdao Jr., Nestor U. Torre, Isabel Caro Wilson and Zenaida R. Tantoco.

The event is being held to help support the projects of the CCP's Arts for the People Program and the Gawad Kalinga. Call 832-1125, locals 1800 to 1806.

MTV Style Awards

For the first time ever, MTV Philippines is bringing together some of the country's coolest personalities for a night of funk and fashion on Sept. 14 at the NBC Tent in Fort Bonifacio.

Awards will be given in eight people's choice categories: Most influential international artist, favorite MTV rockstyle, MTV divastyle, stylish leading lady, stylish leading man, stylish male power player, stylish female power player, and stylish dynamic duo.

Jury Awards will also be given by the MTV Style Council to outstanding designers, models, stylists and photographers.

'Danny Phantom' on Nickelodeon

The Nickelodeon Channel starts telecasting "Danny Phantom" at 11 a.m. and 8 p.m. on Sunday, Sept. 5. Danny is a shy high school freshman who turns out to be a sensational phantom fighter who thwarts the misdeeds of menacing ghosts!

Join him and his friends (techno-geek Tucker and free-thinking Goth girl Sam) as they decode ghostly secrets, fight dragons, and defeat giant robots.

"Kingdom Hospital'

Stephen King's latest horror series, "Kingdom Hospital," premieres on AXN at 10 p.m. on Sept. 5 in a special two-hour episode. Subsequent episodes will be telecast on Thursdays at 9 p.m.

The premiere episode of "Kingdom Hospital" on ABC in the US ranked No. 1 in all key adult demos. The series is about a medical facility whose residents include dead souls who bring its patient and doctors unspeakable horrors!

Larry Mallari

Playing every Wednesday at The Plaza at the Penthouse of the Philippine Stock Exchange Center is popular pianist Dr. Larry Mallari. His extensive repertoire ranges from classic love songs and Broadway hits to movie themes and chartbusters from the '70s. Call 687-0991.

Joey Bautista

At the Richmonde Hotel's Exchange Bar on Wednesdays, Joey Bautista belts out his unique renditions of best-loved ballads, jazz, blues, pop tunes and OPM hits.

Other entertainers: Monday, Paul & Flex; Tuesday, Girl Valencia, Thursday, D' Acous-tix; Friday, Kate Pen; Saturday, Fredie Borja hosts a jamming session. Call 638-7777 local 3408.

'13 Going on 30' sneak previews

The delightful romantic comedy, "30 Going on 30," will have sneak preview screenings on Sept. 6 and 7. The Jennifer Garner and Mark Ruffalo starrer is about "a second chance at first love," as dramatized by its story about an adolescent girl who is transformed into a young-adult career woman overnight. It starts its regular run on Sept. 15.

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sun CELLULAR PREPAID

SATURDAY *Special*

'The Swan' transforms 'ugly ducklings' into vivid beauties

By Nestor U. Torre

THE SUCCESS of the makeover show, "The Swan," on US TV is currently being duplicated here with the reality show's screening on Studio 23.

We caught its first telecast two Fridays ago, and were impressed with the comprehensive surgical, dietary and attitudinal procedures used to transform the show's original 16 "ugly ducklings" into beautiful women—in only three months!

Each week, the program focuses on two contestants, and shows in detail how they are beautified from head to toe. One of the two is eliminated, while the survivor goes on to the finals, along with seven others.

CONTESTANTS turn into beautiful women after comprehensive makeover.

Winner

On the show's premiere telecast, the winner was 27-year-old Rachel Love-Fraser. She was put through seven different procedures, and lost 32 pounds. During the three long months that it took to transform her, she wasn't allowed to look into a mirror—so, her total transformation at the end of the program was as much a surprise and psychic surge to her as it was to the show's viewers.

Why is the show such a hit? Because it invites similarly plain-looking viewers to completely empathize with the contestants, and to thrill in their enhanced

'THE SWAN'/ A3-3

WITH ONE CAR A WEEK TO BE GIVEN AWAY, THERE'S NEVER BEEN A BETTER TIME TO SHOP.

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PUGAD BABOY
BY P.M. JUNIOR

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BY JERRY SCOTT

MUTTS
BY PATRICK McDONNELL

ATOMO AND WEBOY
BY LYRA GARCELLANO

DIVINE COMEDY
BY STEVEN PABALINAS

HOROSCOPE
BY FRANCIS DRAKE

YOU BORN TODAY: You're extremely capable. Big ideas don't scare you. You're organized, effective and capable of running large organizations. You have a logical, analytical, methodical mind, which allows you to build organizations and structures. The year ahead is exciting because it holds fresh, new possibilities! Choose a new path for yourself.
Birthdate of: Beyonce Knowles, singer; Ione Skye, actress; Dick York, actor.

ARIES (March 21 to April 19): As the artisan of the zodiac, you love hobbies and crafts. Today is a perfect day to demonstrate your artistic talents. Start a project that appeals to you.

TAURUS (April 20 to May 20): You're tactile and very sensuous. You're actually a ripe, juicy peach. Why deny yourself some romantic pleasure? Tell the object of your affection that you care.

GEMINI (May 21 to June 20): Make an effort to smooth troubled waters with a family member. All families have negativity now and then, but it's very important to restore solidarity.

CANCER (June 21 to July 22): You're keen to say something or tell somebody something. You want to get something off your chest. Since you want to enlighten others, do it!

LEO (July 23 to Aug. 22): You've been spending your money at an unusual clip (even for you). Be wise about what you purchase. Get a good quality; spend it once.

VIRGO (Aug. 23 to Sept. 22): Four planets are in your sign. (Mercury is soon to return.) This energizes you enormously! Your confidence is strong and your spirits are high. Demand the advantage in whatever you do.

LIBRA (Sept. 23 to Oct. 22): You need harmony in your surroundings because you want peace and quiet. You need balance. The way to seek out that balance today is to be alone. Enjoy your solitude.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23 to Nov. 21): Don't be competitive with a friend. Would you rather be friends with someone you admire or with someone who is completely unremarkable? Why admire someone and then be jealous?

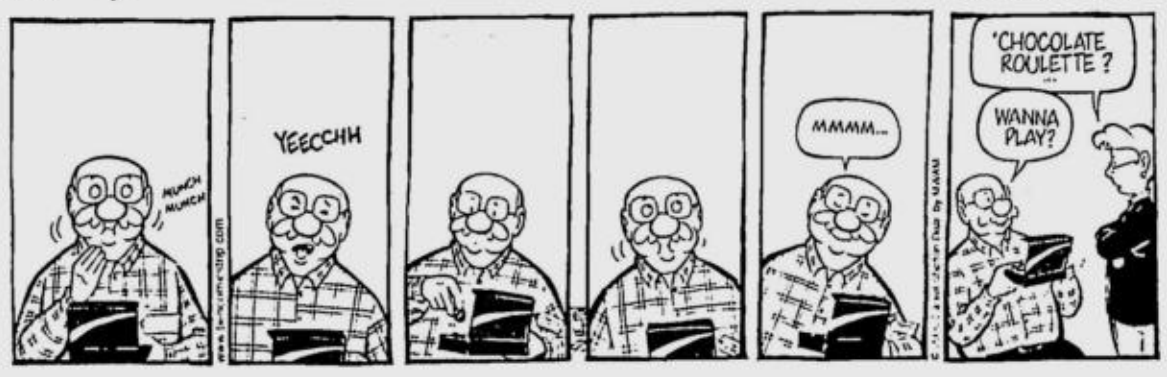
SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22 to Dec. 21): Now is the time to strike. Your ambition is aroused. In addition to this, people notice you now and have respect for your views. Success is often simply timing. Act now!

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22 to Jan. 19): You couldn't pick a better time to travel or return to school. You're hungry to learn more about everything. Matters connected with publishing and the media are also blessed.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20 to Feb. 18): You're on a self-improvement kick, in part because you feel physically attracted to someone. You want to look your best. Continue with your efforts to get in shape. (Whatever turns your crank.)

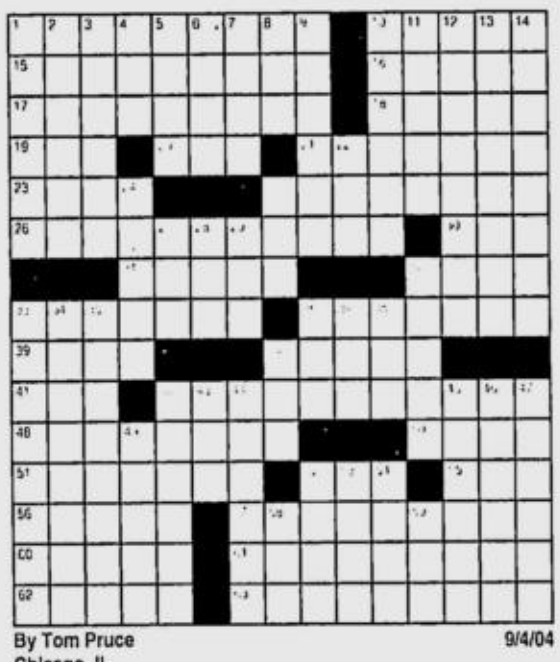
PISCES (Feb. 19 to March 20): Tension with a partner will only destroy your peace of mind. If you feel upset, say nothing. Look at this person with loving eyes, not anger.

BEN
BY DANIEL SHELTON



MIKROKOSMOS
BY JOMIKE TEJIDO

DAILY CROSSWORD



ACROSS
1 Innocent
10 Squander
15 One Presley
16 Astronomer Hubble
17 Animates
18 Jimmy of "N.Y.P.D. Blue"
19 Oolong or pekoe
20 "The Joy Luck Club" author
21 Pretentious performer
23 '60s rock musical
25 Make level
26 Lee and Dannay's sleuth
30 Gershwin or Levin
31 Traffic woe
32 Title paper
33 Shaped like a needle
36 Gemini 6 astronaut Wally
39 Tramp's friend
40 Slobber
41 Fire flakes
42 "Cagney & Lacey" co-star
48 Sonny and Cher's daughter
50 Hissy fit
51 Aquarium attachment
52 Autobahn auto
55 Fruit drink
56 Aired again
57 To one's liking
60 Nonsense
61 Author of "For Love"
62 Middle of a tassel?
63 Check signers

DOWN
1 Carefree
2 Pertaining to direct descent
3 Set upon violently
4 Chart
5 Give forth
6 Zhivago's love
7 Actress Moran
8 Take a chair
9 Bread seed
10 Photographer Edward
11 Own up to
12 More like the rustle of silk
13 Giggler
14 Baja California seaport
22 Lobster eggs
24 Additional attempt
25 Have dinner
27 Spanish river
28 Affirmative answer
29 Can. province
32 Some pickles
33 Menu option
34 Casino employees
35 "Apollo 13" co-star
36 Full-house letters
37 Scam
38 Monopolize
40 Arid
42 Rocks
43 Howdy-dos
44 Relaxing
45 Make feasible
46 Crab on the move
47 Takes the wheel
49 Contour
52 Spawned
53 Office note
54 "The Truman Show" director Peter
58 .38 Special or Colt
59 Gore and Jolson

By Tom Pruce
Chicago, IL
9/4/04

Friday's Puzzle Solved

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KIKO MACHINE
BY MANIX ABRERA

LOVEKNOTS
BY ELIZABETH CHIONGLO

TULDOK
BY PAPU AND TATUM MILAMBILING

It's talent over height in Hollywood

FROM *Lonia Balagonon:* "I enjoyed your trivia on film directors and their height. How about doing the same with popular celebrities?"

SHOW BIZ Q & A

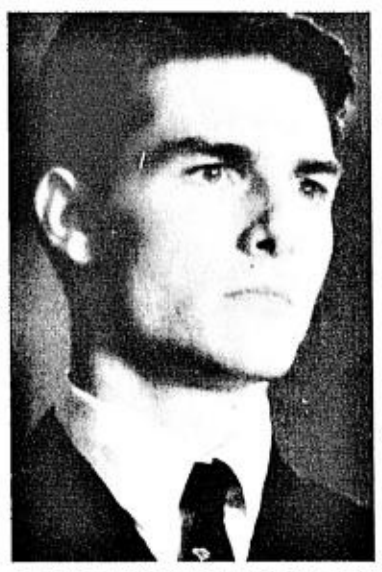
Rito P. Asilo

As you wish, Lonia: Tom Cruise, Hollywood's biggest star, stands "only" 5'7". That didn't stop Nicole Kidman, who's 5'10 ½", from falling head over heels in love with Cruise and his million-dollar smile on the set of "Days of Thunder" (1990), although the screen pairing led to a marriage that ended in divorce.

Cruise will reprise his Ethan Hunt character in "Mission Impossible 3," opposite Scarlett Johansson (5'4"). He is filming Steven Spielberg's film adaptation of H.G. Wells' "War of the Worlds." He starred opposite Colin Farrell (5'10") in Spielberg's "Minority Report." Farrell idolizes Al Pacino (5'6")—his co-star in "The Recruit"—who is short by Hollywood standards. But, Pacino proves that it's really talent over height in tinseltown.

Controversial

Colin heats up the screen anew in the controversial "A Home At the End of the World." He recently completed Oliver Stone's epic, "Alexander," with 5'8" Angelina Jolie, who plays Olympia. He is currently filming Robert Towne's "Ask the Dust" with Salma Hayek (who's 5'2", like Reese Witherspoon), and Terrence Malick's "The New World," with 6'2" Christian Bale, the latest actor to don Batman's coveted cowl.



CRUISE AND KIDMAN. He's 5'7", she's 5'10 ½".

Kidman, on the other hand, continues to "kill" herself with work. She is currently involved in seven (!) productions—including the film adaptation of Broadway's "The Producers"; the musical "American Darlings," (with 5'6" Jennifer Lopez), and the other "Alexander the Great" project, by Baz Luhrmann, where she plays Olympia to 6'1" Leonardo DiCaprio's Alexander.

In the teen-queens category, "A Cinderella Story's" Hilary Duff stands 5'1" (her prince charming, Chad Michael Murray is 6'). Lindsay Lohan ("Mean Girls") is 5'5".

Sabbatical

Mel Gibson (5'10½") is currently on a sabbatical as an actor. "The Passion of the Christ's" Jim Caviezel is a towering 6'2"; "James Bond's" Pierce Brosnan is also 6'2"; Hugh Jackman 6'2½"; Tom Hanks 6'1"; Brad Pitt and Hugh Grant are 5'11½", Ewan McGregor 5'10½"; "The Notebook's" Ryan Gosling 6'2". "Spider-Man's" Tobey Maguire stands 5'8", while James Franco is 5'11".

An actor known for his lack of height, Michael J. Fox, is not as short as he seems—he's 5'5". On the other hand, Danny DeVito is a diminutive 5'—now, *that's* short!

Julia Roberts 5'9"; Catherine Zeta Jones 5'8½"; Meg Ryan 5'8"; Sandra Bullock 5'7½"; Kirsten Dunst and Halle Berry stand 5'7"; Renee Zellweger 5'3", and Sigourney Weaver is a statuesque, 5'11".

* * *

Two shows for 'Sacrilege' today

New Voice's gripping drama, "Sacrilege," starring Tami Monsod, goes onstage today at the Republic of Malate at 4 and 9 p.m. Its two-week run ends on Sept. 11. Call 896-5497 or text 0927 931-6497.

STREET SMART

Mandy Navasero

Special coin

BENIGNO 'Ninoy' Aquino, Jr. has been dead for 21 years, but the memory of his sacrifice is still fresh. His assassination sparked the peaceful People Power revolution that ousted the Marcos dictatorship in 1986.

NINOY included in "Champions for Peace" series.

Ninoy's image has been minted into gold and silver commemorative coins by one of the most prestigious minting firms in the world, H.B. Mayers Kunstprageanstalt GMBH of Germany. He joins the collector's "Champions for Peace" series.

Value

The series includes Pope John Paul II, John F. Kennedy, Mahatma Gandhi and Mother Teresa. Mayer's mint "produces" legal tender, commemorative coins and medals in precious metals like gold, silver and platinum. Thus, they appreciate in value through the years.

The minting firm likewise manufactures special products in metals like copper, nickel, and various alloys for prestigious cars like BMW, Porsche, Volkswagen and Audi.

Recently, a commemorative coin in high-grade gold was turned over to former President Cory Aquino. The Ninoy coins are available through Goldquest or the Spirit of Edsa.

E-mail Mandy Navasero@photopro.com .ph or call 899- 1767

'The Swan' . . .

From page A3-1

looks and personalities.

Sure, it's all superficial, and more than a bit materialistic, but the contestants aver that, even more important than the physical beauty they attain, are the confidence and sense of self they develop.

Potential

In fulfilling their physical potential, the contestants learn many lessons about themselves, and their capacity to do whatever it takes to achieve their goal.

The transformation involves a lot of discipline and patience, and some pain. So, when the contestants are revealed as vivid beauties, they're entitled to their triumph, because they struggled so hard to get it.

Love-Fraser, for instance, had her nose bobbed, teeth straightened, thighs liposuctioned, tummy tucked, breasts "redefined"—etc!

Other contestants have had up to 14 procedures performed on them, but they all say it's worth it, because it's not just their bodies, but their very lives as well that are transformed.

Still, the show has become controversial, because some critics rap it for aggravating the "objectification" of women. They find it shocking that the contestants would agree to change their looks in such a drastic way.

Critics

They contradict the contestants' avowed belief that they're merely fulfilling their full potential. Rather, the show's critics charge, the 16 women radically change their very identity.

Thus, the "new" bodies they inhabit after three months are alien to them, confounding their appreciation of their true selves in a major way. The show's critics fear that the psychological "displacement" that results could compound the contestants' problems.

Whose perception is more on-target? While the parties involved try to settle these issues, the "ugly ducklings" turned "swans" feel the pain but know no shame, as they play the beauty game with everything they've got.

—And, after a hit like this, can a local version be far behind?

You reach an age when you desire the best comfort and protection.

Age makes us crave for better quality of life- one that is marked with absolute security, contentment and a lasting assurance of being valued and cared for. However, incontinence alters one's sense of security, if not for the assurance of a protective partner. TENA has innovative features that provide outstanding leakage security. Designed with a dual-core technology, pads are thinner for ease and mobility, while maintaining its superior absorbency through highly absorbent gels evenly distributed throughout every pad. A dry fast core leaves your skin feeling dry. While curved leg and waist elastic features protect against side leaks and back flows. Standing gathers provide double insurance against side leaks. And if that isn't enough, our wetness indicator tells you when it's time to change.

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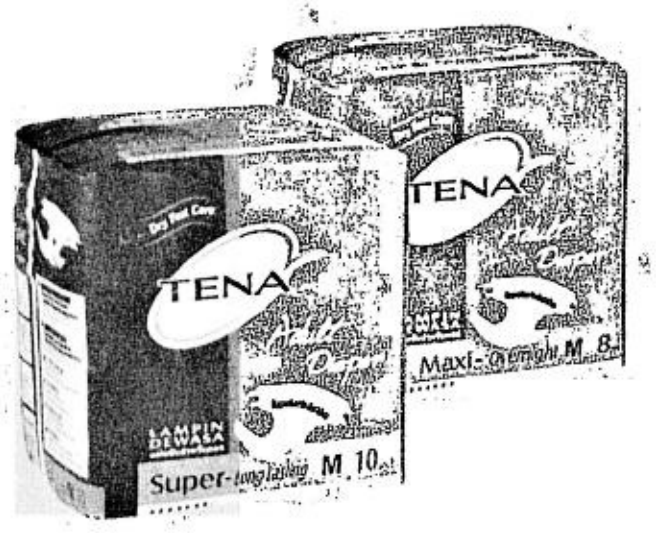

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Sex: Birth Date M D Y

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Name of Respondent: First Name M.I. Last Name

Relation to User: Relative Professional Caregiver

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Magsaysay Award bolsters Haydee Yorac's resolve

By Nestor U. Torre

WE are grateful to the Magsaysay Awards Foundation for honoring Haydee Yorac as its awardee this year for government service. We have admired Haydee's abilities and character ever since we saw her in action at the Supreme Court, speaking up for freedom of expression as one of the lawyers fighting the prior censorship of Lino Brocka's "Bayan Ko: Kapit sa Patalim."

Since then, our passive admiration has turned more active. There was a time when we boosted Haydee as our most qualified candidate for president. When she opted not to run, we proposed that the Philippines should change its system of governance from democracy to royalty, so that Ms. Yorac could then be crowned as our Queen Haydee I.

YORAC. Role model and inspiration.

Work ethic

We were kidding, of course, but our admiration for Haydee's work ethic, competence and integrity was absolutely serious. That's why we were crushed when she didn't get enough votes when she ran for senator some years ago.We really don't know what's good for us, do we?

After the electorate let her (and itself) down, Haydee philosophically resumed her multifarious activities, serving the country courageously and well, even outside the halls of the senate.

But, her biggest challenge was yet to come: She became grievously ill, and there was a long moment there when it looked like she wouldn't pull through.

We remember visiting her during that period, and our heart sank as we saw her so weak and pale.

Miracle

But, good people *are* favored by God—and, miracle of miracles, Haydee did survive her greatest test. More than that, her body slowly but surely recovered, and we were delighted to hear the feisty Haydee of old, once again putting lesser people in their nether places, where they most decidedly belonged.

Some months ago, our *barkada* met for one of our occasional dinners at Chito and Au Cobarrubias' place, and we were thrilled to see Haydee looking so well. She was back in top form as she wittily slayed the usual puffed-up political gorgons and manticores, plus some new hypocritical gargoyles.

That was a most memorable evening, and we thanked Behn Cervantes for inviting Haydee to join our little *barkada*, which is so jovially appreciative of her pointedly zingy contributions to our convivial patter.

Honor

Finally, we're happy that Haydee is now a Magsaysay Awardee, because the honor should bolster her resolve (if indeed it needs bolstering) to continue serving the country, in what we hope will be a series of increasingly important posts.

More, Haydee's award enhances her prominence as a role model and inspiration to younger people who may have become jaded or depressed by the festering culture of mediocrity and corruption that seems to have gutted the soul of the country's leadership.

No, not everybody and everything in this country has been coopted. Haydee Yorac spells the big, shining difference.

Family and physical fitness mean a lot to Jackielou Blanco

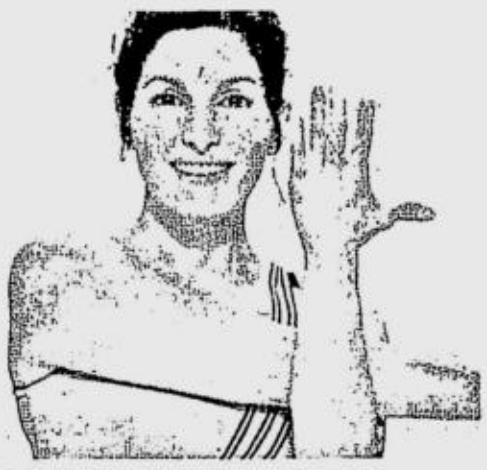
By Remy Umerez

EVER since Jackielou won the Ms Great Body title a few years back, she has become a fitness icon, a label the actress admits she is not comfortable with.

At 40, she is the epitome of health and fitness. Her first "Working Out" video sold more than 25,000 units and continues to encourage more women to be health conscious.

She advises everyone that there should be no reason for a person not to exercise.

"The first video was easy and fun. We intentionally made it *para hindi tamarin ang sinumang gustong sumubok*," she shares.



BLANCO. Ms Great Body winner.

Serious enthusiasts

Now, "Working Out 2" gives serious enthusiasts more advanced pointers and workouts to help them achieve their desired body firmness.

She observes, "The nice part is, you don't have to go to the gym for lack of exercise tools to use. Cans or water bottles will do as substitutes. Loaded piggy banks will also help do the trick!"

Jackielou has combined her duties as a mother and health advocate beautifully.

She wakes up at five in the morning and brings her two daughters to school, then she proceeds to the gym for workouts. She spends the rest of the afternoon writing her newspaper columns. She also regularly hosts a workout segment for "Unang Hirit."

Quality time

In her set of priorities, family comes first. Spending quality time with husband Ricky and their three children is very important to her.

Appearing in a movie or *teleserye* is less appealing to Jackie, because it could mean being separated from her loved ones.

"I accepted a part in Joyride' because I shoot on a per-day basis. I cannot see myself taping three times a week, and then going home to catch some precious sleep. I requested that I be dismissed before midnight. GMA-7 obliged and I'm happy," she beams.

'The Art of Speed' unveils digital short films

By Rica Arevalo

COMPANIES have recently been inviting filmmakers, photographers and artists to come up with materials that feature their products or services. When Nike initiated the local version of "The Art of Speed," together with filmmakers from the Mowelfund Film Institute and the University of the Philippines, I took my chance.

We were given two weeks to come up with our interpretation of speed, and we were fast enough to finish our films in time for the premiere screening last August 26 at the Republic of Malate.

"GODSPEED." Uses surreal graphic imagery.

Limited budget

Ten digital shorts were screened that stormy night. Given the limited budget and short production time, the innovative works were remarkable!

"Spike" by Andrea Anden won best video. It's a simple narrative about a jogger and a car driver meeting by accident. The "look" is very commercial—with a lot of graphics. The camerawork and editing are fresh and daring.

Second place winners Ellen Ramos and Paolo Villaluna used two-dimensional collage and surreal graphic imagery in their animation, "Godspeed." This short revolves around runners silently praying to win in the Olympics. Their prayers seek to reach the gods in heaven, but at the last minute, the race is cancelled!

Ramos says, "We were pleasantly surprised when we won, because we expected the judges to be more biased towards live action, and Lee's film was very dynamic. Thank God, the judges got our pun."

Recent MTV Pilipinas winner Christopher "Topel" Lee used CGI in his action-packed film, "Nak 'Nang" (a *Tagalog* expression). The story is about a typical *Pinoy* male who try to become a hero in order to save a "damsel in distress." In the film, the excitement of speed is not understood, but felt.

Influences

"Animé and Manga films are my big influences. I wanted to do an action film using swords as the main weapon. I wanted to take advantage of this event to fuse computer graphics with live action," says Lee, who placed third.

Villaluna shares, "Speed, in this particular competition, means how fast you can finish a short film with the least amount of money spent, and without ruining your career and losing your mind!"

Nike-Philippines' Rely San Agustin, Ogilvy and Themeworks should be commended for tapping young filmmakers in this endeavor.

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 4, 2004

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

BUSINESS

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B1

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Editor Raul O. Marcelo
Assistant Editor Corrie S. Narisma

Export growth in July slowest for 2004

By Doris C. Dumlao

THE COUNTRY'S export earnings inched up by 3.2 percent in July to $3.1 billion from a year ago, the slowest pace of growth seen this year, due to the weaker global demand for electronics.

This cast doubts on whether the Philippines would be able to meet its 10-percent export growth target for the full year. From January to July, export revenues were up by only 7.7 percent to $21.84 billion.

The National Statistics Office yesterday reported that shipment of electronics, the country's biggest dollar earner, was up by a meager 0.7 percent during the month at $2 billion, a sharp slowdown from the 17.7-percent expansion in June.

In June, total exports grew by 8.2 percent from a year ago.

Economic Planning Secretary Romulo Neri admitted that the slowdown in the country's exports reflected both structural problems and unfavorable global conditions.

Partly to blame for the weaker demand for electronics, Neri said, was an increasing inventory build-up in China and the United States following the softening of economic growth in the two countries.

He said China was now adopting measures to cool its overheating economy while the United States was engaging in cautious monetary tightening to temper inflation.

Based on the NSO report, the United States remained as the country's top export market in July, accounting for 19.3 percent of total receipts even as its imports from the Philippines fell by 11 percent to $598.8 million from a year ago.

Japan was a close second with a 19.1-percent share. Its purchases rose 28 percent to $593.7 million.

Semiconductor Electronics Industry of the Philippines Inc., the umbrella organization of the electronics products manufacturers, has projected a flat growth in the sector's exports in the remaining months of the year.

"There's a slowdown in demand. There are no new killer applications or new technology products," said SEIPI executive director Ernie Santiago.

However, Santiago said the country would continue to rely heavily on earnings from semiconductors this year and in the years to come.

But while exports of semiconductors contracted, Neri noted that shipment of all other electronics products such as electronic data processing machines, office equipment, consumer electronics, medical instruments, and automotive electronics posted robust growths.

Neri said this indicated that the comparative advantage of the Philippines might be shifting to electronics products other than semiconductors.

"We have also not had major investments in semiconductors. The government must continue to look at measures to improve the competitiveness of the semiconductor industry and how it can move up the value chain," Neri said.

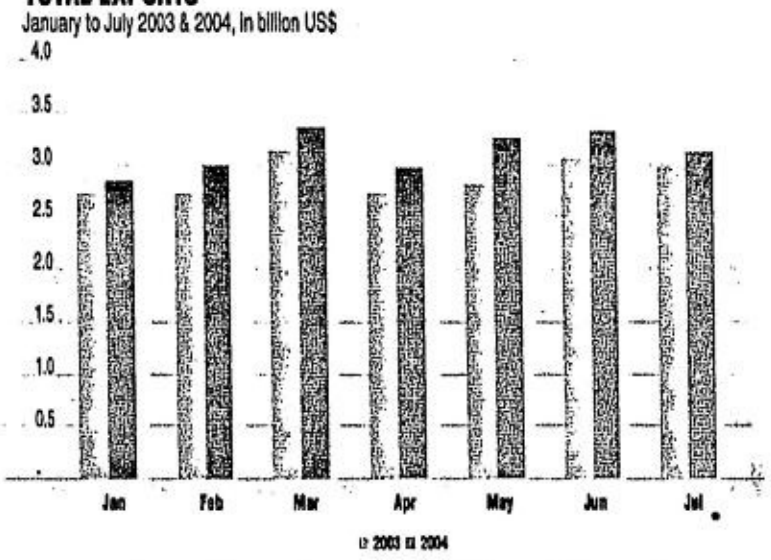
Fortunately, Neri said other exports, such as agro-based and mineral export, were doing well.

Total agro-based exports grew by 4.3 percent due to higher earnings from sugar (up by 101.5 percent) as well as fruits and vegetables (11.3 percent) mainly pineapples and bananas, offsetting the slump in exports of coconut products, fish and seaweeds.

He noted that mineral exports, which expanded by 46.9 percent, also continued to enjoy high world demand due to the strong growth in copper metal, which skyrocketed by 268.2 percent, and copper concentrates, which

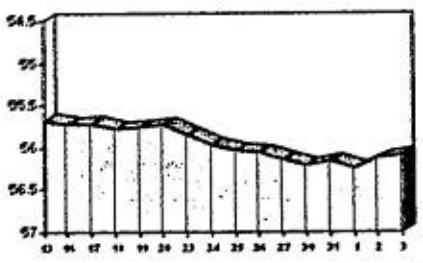
EXPORT/ B5

TOTAL EXPORTS
January to July 2003 & 2004, in billion US$



INDICATORS

CURRENCIES



PESO-DOLLAR RATE

₱ 56.09 = $

As of 5 p.m., Sept. 3, 2004

¥ 109.62 = $ 1

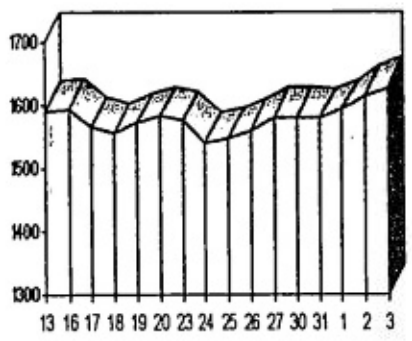
As of 5 p.m., Sept. 3, 2004

GOLD: $405.10-405.60

per ounce Hong Kong, Sept. 3, 2004

STOCK MARKET

PSE COMPOSITE INDEX



(See stock market report on Page B2)

Shares close higher

SHARE prices closed 0.86 percent higher yesterday, supported by gains in selected large-capitalization stocks, dealers said.

Sentiment was also bolstered by a surprise rally on Wall Street overnight, they said.

The Philippine Stock Exchange composite index added 13.96 points to 1,627.96 after moving between 1,614.00 and 1,628.37. It was the index's highest close since Feb. 27, 2001, when it finished at 1,632.30.

Gainers led losers 44 to 37, while 51 stocks were unchanged.

Volume fell to 1.55 billion shares while value rose to P747.2 million from 2.7 billion shares worth P643.4 million on Thursday.

The all-shares index was down 3.49 points at 1,027.60 while the commercial-industrial index rose 15.31 to 2,611.42, and property advanced 10.26 to 538.50. Mining was down 13.91 at 1,743.11, but oil was unchanged at 1.59 while banking and financial services gained 7.98 to 463.97.

"We breached another resistance range today as investors took more positions in fundamentally sound companies," said Lawrence de Leon of Accord Capital Equities.

Metro Pacific Corp., sister company of Philippine Long Distance Telephone Co. (PLDT), was the top-traded stock, gaining one centavo to 45 centavos.

PLDT affiliate Pilipino Telephone Corp. rose 15 centavos to P2.75 while PLDT itself gained P5 to P1325.

San Miguel Corp. saw its "B" shares, available to foreigners, rise one peso to P70.50 while its "A" shares fell 50 centavos to P58.50.

Manila Electric Co. saw its "B" shares rise 50 centavos to P22.75 while its "A" shares were unchanged at P15.50. AFP

ARRIVALS UP 34% AS OF MAY

PCCI calls for increased investments in tourism

By Ronnel W. Domingo

THE PHILIPPINE Chamber of Commerce and Industry yesterday called on city-based businesses to invest in tourism services, which was seen staging a big rebound after visitor receipts jumped 34 percent to P814 million in the first five months.

PCCI president Noemi Saludo said in an interview that big businesses could help jumpstart small and medium enterprises by investing in the provinces.

"Investments from the cities would provide opportunities for SMEs since big operations—especially in the retail sector—mostly rely on the small ones for supplies and outsourced services," Saludo said.

"Also, investing in tourism is timely considering the expected increase in tourist traffic from China where the government is getting more lax on letting its citizen's go abroad," she added.

Data from the Department of Tourism show that visitor arrivals from January to May went up 30.6 percent to 954,473 from 730,769 in the same period a year ago.

While most of the visitors came from the United States, Japan and Korea, all countries of origin posted increased arrivals from a low of 16 percent (Germans) to a high of 39 percent (Singaporeans).

In the first five months, the number of visitors from mainland China grew 32 percent to 16,064 from 12,174 in the year-ago period.

Saludo said the PCCI was confident that tourist arrivals was in an uptrend after an erratic showing in the last seven years, since the Asian financial crisis.

Visitor receipts slid to about $1.52 billion in 2003 from a high of $2.83 million in 1997.

Similarly, tourist arrivals shrunk to about 1.91 million in 2003 from a high of 2.22 million in 1997, although the lowest recorded in the last seven years was about 1.8 million in 2001.

Saludo said her group had identified several destinations where development could be focused —Laoag City, Vigan town and Baguio City in Northern Luzon, Bohol and Leyte in the Visayas and Palawan.

She explained it would make sense to kick of a "investourism" campaign in these areas since these were relatively developed and secure.

"Compared to a few years ago when tourists were scared off by the incidents of kidnapping, we believe the present administration has put the security issue in a more controllable level," Saludo said.

VIGAN was cited as one of the country's destinations where development could be focused.

Republic of the Philippines
Department of Finance
BUREAU OF CUSTOMS
Customs District XIII
Port of Subic
Olongapo City

NOTICE OF SALE

Pursuant to the provisions of Section 2601 of the Tariff and Customs and Customs Code of the Philippines, as amended, in correlation with CAO 5-90 as implemented by CMO 5-2003 dated 17 March 2003, there will be a PUBLIC AUCTION (sealed bidding) on 9 September 2004 from 2:30 P.M. until terminated at Bldg. 303, Customs Clearance Area, Kalaklan Gate, Port of Subic of the hereunder listed lots. Said lots will be available for viewing on September 7 & 8, 2004. For further inquiry/particulars, please call the Office of the District Collector at Tel. No.(047)252-35-34 or Mr. NICOLAS E. YEE II, Chief, Auction and Cargo Disposal Unit at Tel. No. (047) 252-46-96.

Sale Lot No. 04-061 Consignee: Grand Fortune Trading A.P. No. 2003-06 Floor Price: ₱980,000.00	980 sacks (50 kgs/sack) white sugar "AS IS WHERE IS" Location: Bldg. 1076. NSD Compound
Sale Lot No. 04-62 Consignee: GCC Logistics and Trading Corp. S.S.I. No. 2004-08 Floor Price: ₱4,428,600.00	1,752 sacks (50 kgs./sack) white sugar 4,461 sacks (30 kgs./sack) white sugar "201 sacks in B.O. condition" "AS IS WHERE IS" *Note: "Proceeds to be held in Trust" "Only Holders of SRA Trader's Certificate are qualified to bid"* Location: Bldg 8119, Argonaut Highway, Boton, SBFZ
Sale Lot No. 04-63 Consignee: GCC Logistics and Trading Corp. S.S.I. No. 2003-46 Floor Price: ₱48,000.00	86 cartons Printed Posters (Melawares) (125 pcs./carton) 575 cartons Best Ware plastic bowls (200 pcs./carton) 300 cartons Best Ware Cups (96 pcs./carton) 300 cartons Melaware Casserole Cover (64 pcs./carton) 8 cartons Casserole Set w/ Cover (24 sets/carton) 30 cartons Plastic Tumbler (240 pcs./carton) "Made in China" "AS IS WHERE IS" Location: Old CCA, Bldg. 556, SBFZ
Sale Lot No. 04-64 Floor Price: ₱3,500.00	1 unit Toyota Hi-Ace Van "Super Custom" in junk condition. "AS IS WHERE IS" Location: Beside Old CCA, Bldg. 556, SBFZ
Sale Lot No. 04-65 Consignee: MEXXON S.S.I. No. 2003-40 Floor Price: ₱	430 boxes Green Plum Wine (12x750 ml/box) "some boxes are in B.O. condition" "AS IS WHERE IS" Location: Bldg. 1076, NSD Compound, SBFZ
Sale Lot No. 04-66 Consignee: Zone Swan International S.S.I. No. 2003-28 Floor Price: ₱	2 x 20' "Maling" Pork Luncheon Meat "AS IS WHERE IS" Location: CY, NSD Compound, SBFZ
Sale Lot No. 04-67 Consignee: Zone Swan International S.S.I. No. 2004-04 Floor Price: ₱	5 x 20' "Maling" Pork Luncheon Meat "AS IS WHERE IS" Location: CY, NSD Compound, SBFZ

(Sgd.) ATTY. ARNEL A. ALCARAZ
District Collector

Legal eager

BREAKTIME

Conrado R. Banal III

TODAY I yield this space to two letters from our readers. Both of them concern lawyers.

I have nothing against lawyers. But it seems a lot of US companies have.

At one time, the US association of advertising companies did a survey among the largest US corporations, asking the CEOs to rank the departments or units in their corporations, in terms of importance to the success of their businesses.

Coming at top spot was "product development," followed by "public relations," etc.

But what struck me most about the survey were the bottom dwellers. Second to the last was "advertising." And the last, but definitely the least was,...well, "LEGAL."

One of the letters came from a certain Carmela Lee, who related in other letters to us how she went through hell just to get what was rightfully hers, in the first place.

It was a claim for benefits from the education insurance of her son.

It turned out Ms Lee got the benefits, all right, but she got more than what she has bargained for.

And that is a court suit!

It was filed by—surprise—the lawyer of the education insurance company against Ms Lee, who was their loyal customer. Nice, no!

The other letter was actually not addressed to us, but to PCI-Equitable Bank.

And yes, it was written by—you guessed it—a lawyer!

Based on the letter, it seems a certain Selwyn Lao, an engineer, used a piece of property as collateral to a loan from the bank.

But after he completely paid off the loan, the bank still would not release its hold on the property.

The loan officer told Mr. Lao that he had to see—what else—the legal department.

And there, the lawyers told him that his property would only be released, if he would drop an earlier court case which he filed against the bank.

This, in another place and time, could also be called blackmail.

***

MS LEE'S letter goes:

"If there may ever exist a definitive case study on how NOT to treat a customer, I strongly believe the following story should be one."

"This is about an incident last March 29 at the main office of Pacific Education Plans on Sen. Gil J. Puyat Ave. I stopped by to voice out my concerns on why Pacific Education Plans did not want to honor its financial commitment to the education plan of one of my sons. (This is another story altogether.)"

"I was referred to Mr. Gregorio Mangila Jr., assistant manager for education and benefits. I did not find satisfaction in his explanation, and so he had me see an Atty. Regidor Caringal, who was supposedly one of their in-house counsels. At the onset, Caringal exhibited arrogance, instead of a willingness to help a customer of the company he worked for. He not only refused to shake my hand, but he also brushed off my explanation on why I should be properly reimbursed, continuing to wave his hands in a negative manner."

"Because of his bad attitude and stubborn refusal to hear me out, I picked up my cell phone and called an acquaintance to ask who at Pacific Education Plans might properly assist me. While on the phone I was at the same time holding a pen to take down notes. Suddenly, Caringal stuck his finger in my face, saying I had no right to point at him like that. He went on to say, "*dahil ba mayaman ka, gaganyanin mo ako*?" I shot back that I did not point the pen at him. I added, "*huh, anong mayaman*? "If I am rich, will I even take the trouble to get every centavo out of my child's education plan?" As if that was not enough, Caringal responded with a "*put.... ina mo*!"

Since this individual is a so-called lawyer, I now wonder if his despicable behavior is common among those coming out of our law schools nowadays.

"Ironically, Pacific Education Plans and I later reached an amicable settlement regarding the education plan in question. So what Caringal said about my being ineligible for reimbursement was even untrue. I wish the story could have ended there, but it did not. A few weeks ago, I had to post bail because Caringal has brought a charge of slander against me."

"I have brought up the incident with Caringal and his legal actions against me not only with the upper management of Pacific Plans but with the chair herself, Ms Helen Yuchengco-Dy, but to no avail. It seems they have done a Pontius Pilate by stating that Caringal's actions were of his own accord, and they were clear of any responsibility concerning them. I would suggest they reevaluate their stand.

"Employee arrogance and abuse done on company premises during company office hours are surely their responsibility!

"So is this any way to treat a customer? The reason I subscribed to Pacific Plans was to save money for my children's education. Instead, I will have to spend more for my legal defense against an employee who is involved with so-called customer service. A word of caution: If you decide to buy an educational plan, then beware of signing up with Pacific Plans. If you do, and dare to complain, you may just find yourself in court."

***

FOLLOWING are excerpts from the second letter:

"...in behalf of our client, in regard to your unjustified and inordinate act in withholding the release of TCT No. 7753-R (in the name of our client, which was turned over to you as security for the loan he obtained from your bank), notwithstanding full payment thereof allegedly on the ground that there is a pending case between our client and your bank. Please find attached herewith the Certification of "no outstanding obligation" issued by Mr. Mar de Guzman, junior assistant manager, for your reference."

"...said case has nothing to do with the loan which was already settled in full by our client. Said case refers to another transaction involving crossed checks drawn by our client against your bank but deposited to the account other than the payee. Consequently, the withholding of the release of the title of our client, despite his full payment of his outstanding obligation is not only whimsical, despotic, arbitrary but likewise illegal."

BMW launches the X3 Drive Tour

Driving excitement, golf lessons, and great prizes await guests.

BMW Philippines recently announced the launching of the X3 Drive Tour - a fun-filled test drive program scheduled in all authorized BMW dealerships.

During the Tour, which will be held from September 1 to October 14, customers can experience the versatility and agility of the BMW X3 Sport Activity Vehicle. Among the technological highlights of the BMW X3 is the intelligent xDrive all-wheel-drive system, which provides optimum traction under all conditions, thus ensuring greater driving safety and enhanced dynamic performance both on and off road. This innovative technology, combined with the vehicle's wide range of equipment and extra storage space, make the BMW X3 ideal for the modern active individual.

A wide range of BMW X3 vehicles -- varying in colour, engine displacement, and optional features, will be available for test drives during the Tour. With this expanded product fleet at authorized BMW dealers, customers will be able to test drive and choose the variant that best suits their individual needs.

As part of the active X3 lifestyle, BMW has planned learning activities during the X3 Drive Tour that are fun at the same time. After each test drive, customers can practice their golf skills in specially built swing cages and putting greens right in the BMW showroom. Weekend visitors can even have their golf swing checked through a computerized swing analyser with the help of top golf instructors.

Guests who test drive the X3 will be entitled to join the grand raffle, for a chance to win a top-of-the-line Titleist or Cobra driver - worth over Php 30,000. They will also receive golf balls and a 15% discount voucher on golf items from Dynamic Sports, the exclusive distributor of Titleist, Cobra, Footjoy and Pinnacle.

The BMW X3 Drive Tour kicks off in Autohaus BMW (Quezon City) on September 1 to 7, followed by PGA Cars BMW (EDSA, Mandaluyong) from September 8 to 14, Prestige Cars BMW (Makati) September 15 to 21, Premier Cars BMW (San Fernando, Pampanga) from September 22 to 28, and Performance Auto BMW (Cebu) from October 1 to 14.

The BMW X3 - ideal for the active lifestyle.

ADVT

Bankers volunteer for back-breaking work

By Doris C. Dumlao

CORPORATE CITIZEN

THERESA Rama, a manager at the Bank of the Philippine Islands, got a taste of manual labor during a Habitat for Humanity home-building project in Taytay. She remembered how, from dawn until dusk, she helped prepare the cement mixes for a house flooring.

Despite her scoliosis, Rama participated in the project as a "social contribution."

It was an eye-opener for her.

"The experience made me appreciate the construction workers," Rama said.

Rama was among the many BPI employees who had been initiated into the volunteer program of the bank, through BPI Foundation Inc. She probably would not get to join another home-building program, given her physical limitations, but she said she was looking forward to other social outreach programs organized by her company.

BPI EMPLOYEES do their bit for the environment as they clean up the garbage-strewn shores of a town outside Metro Manila.

'I Volunteer'

This year alone, BPI Foundation had mobilized more than 500 Metro Manila-based BPI employees for various programs. In the months ahead, the foundation would promote volunteer programs with BPI business units in Luzon, Visayas and Mindanao.

The "I Volunteer" program aims to initiate and promote volunteer projects for the professional development of BPI employees, as well as to assist and participate in the efforts of volunteer agencies and organizations to provide basic social services. The project may yet become a model for volunteerism within the Ayala group of companies, harnessing the bank's 11,000-strong workforce across the country.

Veronica Tapia-Merk, BPI's vice president for corporate communications and executive director of BPI Foundation, said the foundation had organized volunteer projects in the past years, but it was only recently that it created a system to catapult employee volunteerism into the mainstream.

"Aside from benefiting chosen communities, the volunteerism program has been a venue for employees to build team spirit, nurture contacts among fellow employees, and has given meaning to their lives," Merk said. "For them, they have made a difference or have been exposed to social realities."

The program is well supported by the bank's management, which encourages each employee to render at least eight hours of volunteer time per year.

FERNANDO Zobel of the Ayala Group of Companies (left, background) hands a brick to a volunteer as Mandaluyong Rep. Benhur Abalos (right) looks on.

Social development arm

"At the moment, BPI Foundation is working on the form of corporate support for the volunteer program," Merk said. "This may be through counting relevant work as experience when considering a candidate for promotion, arranging work schedules of employees for approved volunteer projects, etc. (The) foundation is engaging BPI management to develop a strategic and systematized volunteer program."

The bank created BPI Foundation 25 years ago to function as its social development arm, with the mission to build up the social and spiritual well-being of a community.

To sustain and gauge employees' interest, Merk said BPI Foundation would identify and schedule several volunteer efforts at least a year in advance. The employees could then choose from the various volunteer activities. Among the projects are:

- I Build (Habitat for Humanity);
- I Protect/I Conserve (coastal clean-up and tree planting);
- I Teach (storytelling/sharing of expertise); and,
- I Care (care for environment, care for air, care for needy/sick).

Books for the 'under-served'

The foundation, which usually provides transportation and food for the volunteers, as well as management recognition for their effort, has so far engaged their employees in home-building, capability-building workshops for small enterprises and community groups, environmental protection activities, sharing of expertise of BPI interest clubs (badminton, culinary, chess, camera, bonsai), creative intervention to advocate self-reliance of overseas Filipino workers' families, as well as rekindling patriotic fervor through the promotion of the Philippine flag.

In the coming months, Merk said, BPI Foundation would tap the "I Volunteer" participants to distribute storybooks to public elementary schoolchildren in under-served areas in the country, conduct storytelling sessions for schoolchildren, organize capability-building seminars and assist small entrepreneurs nationwide.

Some of the projects in the pipeline are:

- "Flag For Every Public School," where the BPI Foundation will work with the Division of City Schools Makati City to distribute Philippine flags to Makati's 37 public schools, as well as audio cassettes and videotapes of the Philippine National Anthem; and,
- "Clean Air Project," where the Foundation will join forces with the Baguio Regreening Movement Clean Air Committee to create and sustain awareness on the importance of clean air as well as educate motorists on maintaining vehicles and following related ordinances.

Positive feedback

A random, informal interview conducted by the foundation among the employees in Metro Manila yielded positive feedback on the volunteerism program.

"Employees look for activities outside their work areas either to share their expertise or to enrich their well-being with the experiences obtained from the volunteer projects," Merk said.

The volunteerism program is seen as a cost-effective training program. Employees learn new skills or try out talents that are not often used in the workplace, develop leadership abilities, and improve problem-identification and-solving capabilities.

BPI is aware that sporadic efforts to implement volunteer projects may tend to become one-shot activities. As such, it believes that strategic participation in volunteer activities requires development of systems and mechanisms to ensure efficiency and sustainability.

"In the medium term, BPI Foundation hopes to mainstream employee volunteerism, for instance, through its inclusion in the bank's corporate objectives, as well as coming up with an operations manual for this undertaking such that other BPI employees nationwide can replicate the volunteer program," Merk said.

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Editor Aries Espinosa

Toshiba unveils New Digital Platform

IN THE past ten years, the two major trends in technology are digitization and multimedia merger. Wether for home or office use, these developments paved the way for advancement in features and applications in computers, telecommunications, entertainment and other sectors.

In a recent conference entitled "Toshiba World Tour 2005: The Power of Intelligence" held in Singapore Asian Civilization Museum, technological advancement in audio-video products were unveiled. Coinciding with their 30th Anniversary, Toshiba presented its latest applied technology called New Digital Platform to over 500 company representatives and distributing network guests from 46 countries worldwide which included the Philippines' Gold Way Digital Equipment Inc representatives.

Created in a single board instead of the conventional two, this processor revolutionizes image quality, movement and clarity with its three digital functions: Magic Square Algorithm, Real Speed Progressive and Over-Sampling Scaling System.

According to Toshiba Singapore's managing director Akio Ozaka, while there are vast improvements on TV picture quality over the past years, uneven and jagged-edged images remain a problem. This is because conventional TV technology is composed of discrete steps that do not allow seamless gradation of images. "Toshiba's New Digital Platform solves that gap," boasts Ozaka.

With the Magic Square Algorithm, it arranges more pixels in a group to create new color tones and enhance image gradation. While TV screens have a tone display capability of 256 tones, this technology has four times that number, or 1024 tones. Consequently, the screen is able to display more than 1 billion colors instead of only 16 million. Serrated lines that appear at the slanted edges of moving images are smoothened with the platform's Real Speed Progressive. By performing real time scanning, it is able to capture and produce flawless fast moving images. Over-Sampling Scaling System on the other hand enhances image quality by amplifying incoming signals to high resolution. At the same time, it extracts the best-balanced pixel combination of the image to reproduce ultra-fine and crisp output.

"We are very proud of this new technology," enthuses Ozaka. "The New Digital Platform enables us to create related products and applications. These developments, and our commitment to innovation and our customers, clearly show that Toshiba is leading the way in digital and multi-media technology."

Products that carry Toshiba's New Digital Platform technology will be released in the Philippines on the last quarter of 2004.

Gold Way Digital Equipment Inc is the sole and only recognized distributor of Toshiba's audio-visual products like LCD and Projection TVs, including DVD players in the country.

ALASKA GIVES DONATION TO CHILDREN'S HOUR

Since 1999, Alaska Milk Corporation has been consistently championing Children's Hour by enjoining its employees to dedicate an hour's worth of their salary once a year to children in need. In photo, handing over Alaska employees' contribution to Children's Hour executive director Evangeline Mayuga is Alaska president Wilfred Uytengsu, joined by director for corporate affairs, Santiago Polido. Children's Hour calls on companies, employees and individuals to donate just an hour's worth of their salary to programs for the welfare of Filipino children. Interested employees or companies may email ask@childrenshour.org.ph.

NATIONAL FOOD AUTHORITY
Region VII – Cebu City

NOTICE OF AUCTION

The **National Food Authority (NFA)** Region VII, Cebu City invites all reputable sugar traders, industrial users and other interested buyers to submit a sealed offer for the Auction of **112,070.40 Lkg of RAW SUGAR "B"**. This stock is stored at two (2) Sugar Centrals in Central Visayas and is offered for sale on an "ex-sugarmill, as-is where-is and take all-per mill" basis with an indicative price set at Ps780.00 per Lkg:

PROVINCE	SUGAR CENTRAL	QUANTITY (In Lkg)
Negros Oriental	Central Azucarera de Bais (CAB) Bais City, Negros Oriental	89,418.84
Negros Oriental	Universal Robina Sugar Milling Corp. (URSUMCO) Manjuyod, Negros Oriental	22,651.56
	TOTAL	112,070.40

All interested offerors are required to post a Bond equivalent to 10% of the total amount offered in the form of Cash / Manager's / Cashier's Check payable to NFA.

Interested buyers shall submit the following documents to the Committee during the pre-auction conference:

1. Certified photocopy of DTI Registration for Single Proprietorship; SEC / CDA Registration for partnership / corporation / cooperative and Mayor's Permit.
2. Duly notarized Special Power of Attorney from the single proprietor or Board Resolution from the secretary / chairman certifying that the representative is presently connected with the entity as an official/ employee/stockholder and is authorized to represent the same in the auction and all activities pertinent therein.

Terms and Conditions and Tender Forms relative to the auction can be secured at the Committee Secretariat, NFA, Cebu Regional Office, Cebu City after payment of a non-refundable fee of Ps500.00. The NFA encourages all interested offerors to conduct an ocular inspection of the subject sugar stock prior to the pre-auction conference.

A ***pre-auction conference*** is set at ***9:00 AM*** on ***September 10, 2004*** at the 2nd Floor, NFA, Banilad, Cebu City. The ***submission and opening*** of sealed offers immediately follows after the pre-auction conference.

The NFA reserves the right to reject any or all offers, waive any informalities or defects found therein, and accept only such offers which, in its judgment, is deemed most advantageous to the National Food Authority.

(Sgd.) PIOLITO C. SANTOS
Asst. Reg'l Director /
Chairman, Auction Committee

(PDI–Sept. 4, 2004)

SAN BEDA COLLEGE HIGH SCHOOL 2005 GRAND ALUMNI HOMECOMING

Members of various San Beda College High School Alumni batches recently met to discuss joint projects in connection with the 2005 Grand Alumni Homecoming scheduled on Feb. 19, 2005 in the College Football Field. Shown are batch representatives of the 2005 Jubilee Batches (HS '55, '60', '65, '70, '75 and 80) together with some batch reps of the 2006 Jubilee batches (HS '56, '61', '66, '71, '76 and '81). The group is finalizing various projects that is directed towards making the 2005 Homecoming the grandest reunion of San Beda's Alumni in a long, long time. The theme of the 2005 Homecoming is 'Ang Pula. Ang Puti. Sa Mendiola Ang Uwi' All Bedan Alumni (Grade School, High School, College of Arts & Sciences and College of Law) are enjoined to contact their respective batch reps or the SBC Alumni Association (c/o Wilma Abellanosa) at tel. no. 735-5995 so you can update your contact info. Animo San Beda!

TransCo

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

Date : August 24, 2004
Contract No. BCMD.2004-012

1. Contarct Name : Supply and Delivery of Laboratory Standard and Testing Systems for Luzon, Visayas and Mindanao
2. The contract to be performed by the successful bidder shall consist of supply and delivery of the following Laboratory Standard and Testing Systems; (CIP) Metering Services Group of Transco, Diliman, Quezon City.
   a) Three-Phase Electricity Reference Standard
   b) Three-Phase Test and Measurement System
   c) Primary Transfer Standard
3. The Approved Budget for the Contract to be bid from the Internal Cash Generation of Transco is P24,200,000.00
4. Application for Eligibility and Bidding is open to Filipino manufacturers, suppliers/ dealers, distributors who have the legal, technical and financial requisites of the contract to be bid.
   The prospective bidder should bid on all of the items listed above. A bid one (1) or a combination of any two (2) shall be rejected.
5. Application for Eligibility and bids shall be evaluated using "PASS/FAIL" criteria and only Eligible Bidders shall be included by TransCo in the bidding. All bids equal to or lower than the Approved Budget for the Contract to be Bid shall be evaluated based on the responsiveness of the supplier's offer to the contract under bidding subject to Post qualification before an award is made. Bid Prices submitted higher than the Approved Budget for the Contract to be Bid shall be rejected and returned outright.
6. Eligibility & Bid Documents will be available for issuance on **August 27, 2004** at the **Bids and Contract Management Department**, Ground Floor, Power Center, Quezon Avenue corner BIR Road, Diliman, Quezon City 1104, Telefax No.: 921-23-08 upon presentation of Letter of Intent and a payment of non-refundable fee of P5,000 00
7. Deadline for submission of duly accomplished Application for Eligibility Forms, statements and Bid Proposals (Technical and Price) shall be on **September 24, 2004, 1:30 P.M.** at the De La Paz Function Room, Training Center, Power Center, Quezon Avenue corner BIR Road TransCo, Diliman, Quezon City, Metro Manila
   If the date is a non-working day or declared non-working holiday, the deadline for submission shall be moved to the next working day immediately following said date. Late submission shall not be accepted.
   Pre-Bid Conference shall be on **September 7, 2004** at the same venue.
8. Manufacturers, suppliers/dealers, distributors not yet included in the TransCo's List of registered Suppliers/Contractors, who wish to participate in the public bidding, in order to facilitate eligibility check/screening, are requested to register with the registration office mentioned above by submitting the following basic requirements, duly notarized, which should be maintained current and updated at least once a year. A certificate of Registration will be issued to suppliers/ contractors upon approval.
   - Department of Trade and Industry (DTI) business name registration or Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC) registration certificate, as appropriate;
   - Mayor's permit and/or municipal license for the current year;
   - Copy of Taxpayer's Identification Number (TIN) issued by BIR or Copy of BIR registration showing TIN;
   - Notarized statement of the prospective bidder that it is not "blacklisted" or barred from bidding by any government agency, office or corporation,
   - Audited financial statements, stamped "received" by the BIR or its duly accredited and authorized institutions, for the immediately preceding calendar year, showing, among others, the prospective bidder's total and current assets and liabilities inclusive of Income Tax Return and Receipts,

   For foreign bidders who will form into a joint venture, the required documents applicable to entities doing business in the Philippines shall be substituted by the appropriate equivalent documents issued by foreign bidder's country, which documents shall be duly acknowledged and/or authenticated by the Philippine Consulate thereat.

   Note : Prospective bidders are allowed to submit the above requirements together with their Eligibility Forms and Documents during the deadline for the submission of Eligibility requirements and Bid proposals (Technical and Price)
9. TransCo reserves the right to reject any application for Eligibility or all bids without offering any reason, waive any required formality therein, and to make an award to the bidder whose proposal is most advantageous to the government
10. The Contract to be bid shall be governed by the Provisions of R.A. 9184 and its Implementing Rules and Regulations.
11. Additional information shall be furnished upon request. All communications should be addressed to the undersigned at the aforementioned address

(Sgd.) DOMINADOR S. GEONZON
Chairman
Bids and Awards Committee

(PDI – August 28 & September 4, 2004)

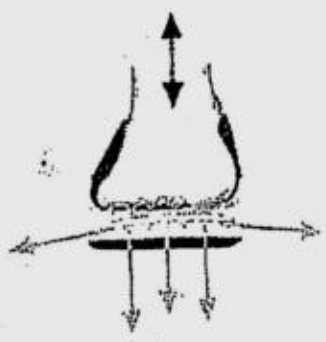
ProductFILES

Geox presents new innovations in footwear industry

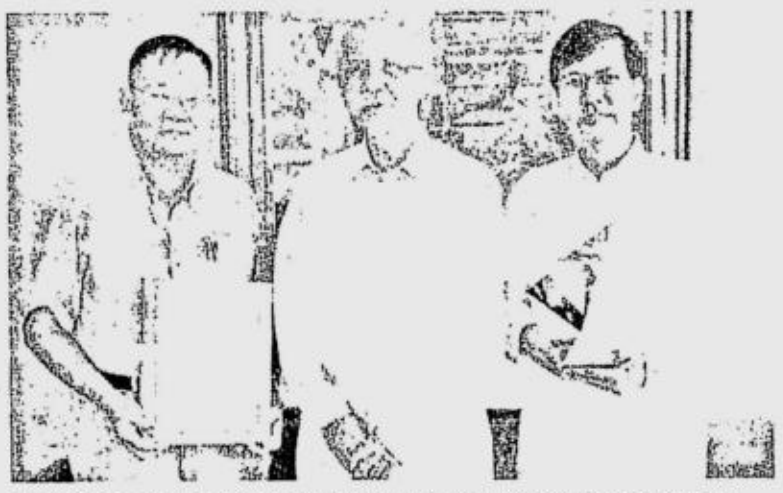
RUBBER shoes, introduced more than 50 years ago, represented a technological achievement that changed the life of millions of people on the planet - waterproof footwear that kept people's feet dry and warm, especially in winter. However, the downside was the lack of feet perspiration, not a minor detail considering that the third highest concentration of sweating glands is right on the feet soles. With this in mind, Geox presents new innovations in the footwear industry:

Geox Breathes patented system - Micro-holes in the rubber outsole let perspiration from the feet out of the shoes, the protective breathable membrane keeps water out and the feet dry.

Side Transpiration System - Everyone knows that sweat is good for you. It balances your outer body temperature. It means sport and fun. It's energetic. At all ages. The STS patent was born on these grounds, to expel a higher quantity of sweat through both an increased amount of holes designed on the sides as well as a full-foot membrane able to get sweat out, not wet in.



Geox Leather - Geox research found the technological solution which adds the waterproof feature to the natural "breathing" of leather soles. 'Geox Leather' features a cutting edge transpiring waterproof membrane which is fitted inside of the leather sole. The resulting sole has undergone intensive testing which keeps it totally waterproof.



ATENEO-REGIS MBA PROGRAM RECEIVES AWARD

The Ateneo Graduate School of Business (AGSB) was recently recognized for demonstrating quality and growth in the development and delivery of the Ateneo-Regis MBA Executive Degree Program. The program was given the Thomas R. Kennedy Award for Mission Extension for 2004 by the New Ventures of Regis University. Photo shows the award and citation held by (left) AGSB dean Dr. Alfredo RA Bengzon and (right) assistant dean and executive director of the Ateneo-Regis MBA Program Albert Buenviaje with Ateneo de Manila University president Fr. Bienvenido Nebres.

BITS Clips

'An Eye On Broadway'

THE ASIAN Eye Institute (AEI) will present "An Eye on Broadway" on Sept. 10 at the Captain's Bar, Mandarin Hotel, in Makati. The show, which is a fund-raising project for the benefit of Ofphil, is part of AEI's mission to bring the gift of sight to as many indigent Filipinos as possible. It will feature memorable Broadway hits of great artists that include George Gershwin, Rodgers and Hammerstein, Lerner and Loewe, Bernstein, and Andrew Lloyd Webber. To know more about this fund-raising event, call 898-2020 local 416.

Tau Alpha celebrates 72nd year

ON THE occasion of its 72nd anniversary, the Tau Alpha Fraternity of the UP College of Engineering will be holding a celebration shindig on Sept. 4 at the Architectural Center, Rockwell, Makati. The theme of the affair is "Celebrating the Spirit of 1932". All Alphans are invited to attend the celebration and renew fraternal ties with one another. For confirmation, contact Herbie Rosales '61 at 0921-557-8284 or Pepot Viado '52 at 0919-251-6744.

Alay Lakad Para sa Kabataan Day

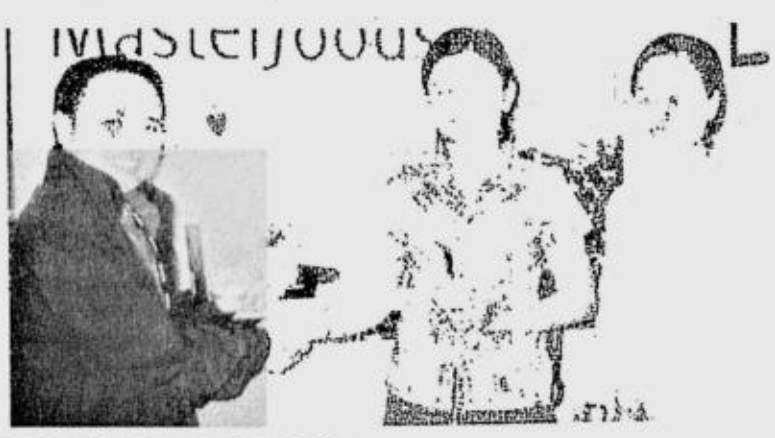
PRESIDENT Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo and Vice President Noli De Castro will lead this year's Alay Lakad Para sa Kabataan Day, slated on Sept. 5. This annual tradition which is celebrating its 32nd anniversary will have the theme "Hakbang ng Bayan: Tulong sa Kabataan". Proceeds of this fund raising campaign will benefit the country's out-of-school youth population. Donations will be accepted either on the Walk Day itself, at the Quirino Grandstand, Rizal Park or after the Alay-Lakad day. For inquiries, call the ALFI national secretariat office at 523-1539 or 522-6134.

Knowledge management seminar

THE ASIA Pacific College will be conducting a half-day seminar with its theme "Enhancing Competitiveness through Strategic Information Management". The seminar will focus on how to create, store, share and leverage knowledge for organizational advantage. Lecturer will be professor Romeo Mascardo, president of SDI Business Intelligence Consulting and of the BISP. The 3-hour seminar will be held on Sept. 10 from 1 to 4 p.m. at APC and certificates will be awarded to attendees. Seminar fee is P300 inclusive of materials and snacks. Limited slots available For details, call Toni Anne David at 852-9670 to 71.

OVALTINE POWER SPONSORS QUIZ BEE

Associated British Foods (Phils) through Ovaltine Power has partnered with the Quiz Bee Foundation to be the exclusive presentor of the '25th National Super Quiz Bee Championships'. The Quiz Bee will run from August to December 2004, involving 40,000 schools from all 17 regions. Shown in photo during the Manila-Pasay division championships, are the winners in the Makabayan category. The first runner-up, Catherine Lee of Bacood Elementary School is being awarded by Arbie Zalamea, Ovaltine Power assistant product manager while the champion, Frederick Gomez of La Consolacion College is being awarded by Marco Torres, Ovaltine Power product manager.



M&M'S MOBILE MANIA

Master Foods Phils Inc, makers of M&M's, Snickers, and Maltesers, recently awarded a new Samsung E-100 phone to Arlene Benoza, one of the winners of M&M's Mobile Mania consumer promotion. Arlene found the winning coupon in a pack of M&M's Peanut from SM North Edsa Arlene was more than happy to get a new phone upon purchase of her favorite M&M's Chocolates. Awarding the phone are Ariel Esquillo, key account specialist (left) and Redj Sison of the franchise team (right), both from Master Foods. Master Foods Phils Inc will be giving away 33 Samsung E-100 cellular phones for this promo.

PHILIPPINE STOCK EXCHANGE

(As of September 3, 2004)

STOCKS	OPEN	HIGH	LOW	CLOSE	VOLUME
BANKS & FINANCIAL SERVICES					
BANKS					
Banco de Oro Univ. Bank	17	17	17	17	57,300
Bank of the Phil. Islands	41.5	43	41.5	42.5	1,134,100
China Banking Corp.	535	535	535	535	30
Citystate Savings Bank	16.25	16.25	16.25	16.25	600
Equitable PCI Bank Inc.	41.5	41.5	41.5	41.5	13,300
Export and Ind. Bank Inc.	0.47	0.48	0.47	0.48	810,000
Metropolitan Bank & Trust	25	25	24.75	25	244,200
Philippine National Bank	22.5	22.5	22.5	22.5	3,200
Phil. Savings Bank	27	27	27	27	2,900
Security Bank Corp.	21.25	21.25	21	21.25	340,500
Union Bank of the Phil.	24.25	24.25	24.25	24.25	15,800
FINANCIAL SERVICES					
Manulife Financial Corp.	2280	2280	2280	2280	500
PCI Leasing & Fin. Inc.	1.36	1.36	1.36	1.36	110,000
Sun Life Financial Inc.	1520	1520	1520	1520	250
COMMERCIAL & INDUSTRIAL					
COMMUNICATION					
ABS-CBN Broadcasting Corp.	20	20	20	20	15,400
Digital Telecom Phils Inc.	0.63	0.64	0.63	0.64	480,000
Globe Telecom Inc.	900	905	890	890	21,750
Ipeople Inc.	1.5	1.5	1.48	1.48	110,000
ISM Communications Corp.	0.035	0.037	0.035	0.037	6,700,000
Liberty Telecoms Holdings	0.21	0.235	0.21	0.235	320,000
Manila Bulletin Pub. Corp.	2.4	2.4	2.4	2.4	10,000
Pilipino Tel. Corp.	2.65	2.8	2.65	2.75	30,904,000
Phil. Telegraph & Tel. Co.	0.25	0.26	0.25	0.26	20,000
Phil. Long Dis Tel Co.	1320	1335	1320	1325	57,190
Ivantage Corp.	0.66	0.66	0.65	0.65	3,100,000
Philweb Corp.	0.011	0.012	0.011	0.011	163,800,000
POWER & ENERGY					
Manila Electric Co. A	15.5	15.5	15.25	15.5	28,700
Manila Electric Co. B	22.75	23.25	22.75	22.75	3,073,200
Petron Corp.	2.8	2.8	2.7	2.7	3,876,000
TRANSPORTATION SERVICES					
Asian Terminals Inc.	1.28	1.28	1.28	1.28	100,000
Int'l Container Term'l Sv	4.3	4.5	4.25	4.45	4,897,000
Keppel Phils. Marine Inc.	0.3	0.3	0.3	0.3	10,000
CONSTRUCTION & OTHER RELATED PRODUCTS					
Engineering Equip. Inc.	0.4	0.41	0.4	0.4	280,000
Republic Cement Corp.	0.78	0.78	0.78	0.78	10,000
Union Cement Corp.	1.96	1.96	1.92	1.92	482,000
FOOD, BEVERAGES & TOBACCO					
Alaska Milk Corp.	2.9	2.9	2.9	2.9	3,000
Jollibee Foods Corp.	25.5	25.5	25	25.5	159,100
RFM Corp.	0.75	0.75	0.75	0.75	130,000
Swift Food Inc.	0.35	0.35	0.34	0.35	560,000
San Miguel Corp. A	58.5	58.5	58.5	58.5	20,700
San Miguel Corp. B	69	70.5	69	70.5	1,041,800
Universal Robina Corp.	8.6	8.8	8.6	8.8	175,000
Vitarich Corp.	0.29	0.29	0.29	0.29	1,790,000
HOLDING FIRMS					
Abacus Con Res & Hdg A	0.0048	0.0048	0.0046	0.0048	15,000,000
Ayala Corp.	5.6	5.8	5.6	5.8	4,531,000
Aboitiz Equity Ventures	3.2	3.25	3.2	3.25	76,000
Alliance Global Group Inc.	11	11.25	11	11.25	1,500
Ajo.Net Holdings Inc.	0.03	0.03	0.026	0.026	4,700,000
A. Soriano Corp.	1.4	1.48	1.4	1.46	2,328,000
APC Group Inc.	0.07	0.07	0.07	0.07	600,000
Alcorn Gold Res. Corp.	0.006	0.006	0.006	0.006	89,000,000
ATN Holdings Inc.	1.58	1.58	1.58	1.58	20,000
Baguio Gold Holdings Corp.	1	1	1	1	20,000
Balabac Resources & Hldgs	0.94	0.95	0.94	0.95	60,000
Bacnotan Cons Indus Inc.	25	25	24.75	24.75	9,600
Benpres Holdings Corp.	0.53	0.54	0.52	0.52	21,790,000
Basic Consolidated Inc.	0.13	0.13	0.13	0.13	1,000,000
Crown Equities Inc.	0.31	0.31	0.29	0.29	12,980,000
Southeast Asian Cement	0.135	0.15	0.12	0.14	12,570,000
DMCI Holdings Inc.	2.04	2.06	1.98	2.02	5,843,000
Ever-Gotesco Resources	0.035	0.035	0.035	0.035	100,000
First Phil Hldgs Corp.	26	26.5	25.5	26.5	770,600
Global Equities Inc.	0.0725	0.0725	0.0725	0.0725	6,600,000
Ionics Inc.	2.14	2.14	1.98	1.98	941,000
Macroasia Corp.	1.26	1.3	1.26	1.26	203,000
Marsteel Cons. Inc. A	0.014	0.014	0.014	0.014	2,100,000
Megaworld Corp.	1.22	1.28	1.2	1.26	19,700,000
Multitech Inv. Corp.	0.22	0.22	0.22	0.22	110,000
Metro Pacific Corp.	0.46	0.48	0.45	0.45	197,150,000
Prime Orion Phils. Inc.	0.16	0.16	0.15	0.15	1,180,000
Prime Media Holdings Inc.	1.1	1.1	1.04	1.04	70,000
East Asia Power Res. Corp.	0.18	0.18	0.16	0.16	2,550,000
Roxas Holdings Inc.	0.86	0.86	0.86	0.86	20,000
Solid Group Inc.	0.42	0.43	0.42	0.43	70,000
South China Resources Inc.	0.175	0.22	0.175	0.22	200,000
Uniwide Holdings Inc.	0.15	0.16	0.15	0.15	9,080,000
Wellex Industries Inc.	0.215	0.215	0.21	0.21	570,000
Waterfront Phils. Inc.	0.24	0.24	0.24	0.24	210,000
MANUFACTURING, DISTRIBUTION & TRADING					
Corro-Coat Inc.	1.3	1.3	1.26	1.26	6,000
Interphil Labs Inc. B	1.9	1.9	1.9	1.9	5,000
Metro Alliance Hldgs B	0.48	0.48	0.48	0.48	350,000
Music Semiconductors Corp.	1.8	1.86	1.72	1.76	710,000
Picop Resources Inc.	0.08	0.08	0.08	0.08	100,000
Steniel Manufacturing	0.11	0.15	0.11	0.15	480,000
HOTEL, RECREATION & OTHER SERVICES					
Belle Corp.	0.7	0.71	0.69	0.69	5,740,000
Fairmont Holdings Inc.	0.31	0.33	0.31	0.33	1,780,000
Leisure & Resorts Corp.	0.56	0.56	0.55	0.56	250,000
Manila Jockey Club	3.4	3.4	3.4	3.4	10,000
Premiere Ent. Prod. Inc.	0.32	0.33	0.31	0.33	910,000
BONDS, PREFERRED & WARRANTS					
ABS-CBN Hldgs. Corp. (Pdr)	20	20.25	20	20.25	186,200
PLDT (10% Pref) Series O	10	10	10	10	200
PLDT (10% Pref.) Series U	10	10	10	10	400
PLDT (10% Pref) Series V	10.5	10.5	10.5	10.5	1,200
PLDT (10% Pref) Series W	10.5	10.5	10.5	10.5	100
PLDT (10% Pref) Series Z	10.5	10.5	10.5	10.5	1,400
PLDT 10% Pref Series Aa	10.5	10.5	10.5	10.5	1,600
OTHERS					
Centro Escolar University	6.3	6.3	6.2	6.2	75,000
PROPERTY					
Ayala Land Inc.	5.6	5.7	5.6	5.7	6,693,000
Cityland Development Corp.	1.6	1.6	1.6	1.6	8,000
Cebu Holdings Inc.	0.46	0.46	0.46	0.46	40,000
C & P Homes Inc.	0.27	0.28	0.27	0.27	7,110,000
Cyber Bay Corp.	0.15	0.15	0.145	0.145	2,250,000
Empire East Land Inc.	0.27	0.3	0.27	0.29	48,860,000
Filinvest Land Inc.	0.97	1	0.97	0.99	16,950,000
Gotesco Land Inc.	0.075	0.075	0.075	0.075	300,000
Gotesco Land Inc B	0.075	0.075	0.075	0.075	300,000
Kuok Phil. Properties	0.185	0.185	0.185	0.185	200,000
City & Land Developers	1.6	1.6	1.6	1.6	21,000
Fil-Estate Land Inc.	0.45	0.45	0.45	0.45	220,000
Philippine Estates Corp.	0.085	0.085	0.085	0.085	2,000,000
SM Development Corp.	1	1	1	1	1,000
SM Prime Holdings Inc.	5.8	5.9	5.7	5.7	3,802,000
MINING					
Apex Mining Co. Inc. B	0.17	0.17	0.17	0.17	20,000
Abra Mining & Industrial	0.005	0.005	0.005	0.005	89,000,000
Atlas Cons. Min & Dev't	3	3	3	3	15,000
Lepanto Cons Mng. Co. A	0.21	0.21	0.21	0.21	170,000
Lepanto Cons. Mng. Co B	0.25	0.25	0.25	0.25	330,000
Manila Mining Corp. A	0.013	0.013	0.012	0.013	37,000,000
Manila Mining Corp. B	0.015	0.015	0.015	0.015	94,500,000
Omico Corp.	0.0042	0.0044	0.0042	0.0042	408,000,000
Polar Mines & Dev't Corp.	0.032	0.033	0.031	0.031	31,900,000
Philex Mining Corp. A	0.39	0.4	0.39	0.39	290,000
Philex Mining Corp. B	0.41	0.42	0.4	0.41	1,070,000
United Paragon Mining Co.	0.12	0.12	0.12	0.12	450,000
OIL					
Imperial Res.	0.012	0.013	0.011	0.011	36,500,000
Oriental Pet. & Min. A	0.004	0.004	0.004	0.004	26,000,000
Oriental Pet. & Min. B	0.004	0.004	0.004	0.004	32,000,000
The Philodrill Corp. A	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.2	170,000
Pacifica	0.012	0.013	0.01	0.011	55,300,000
Petroenergy Res. Corp.	2.75	2.95	2.75	2.95	167,000
Sinophil Corp.	0.031	0.031	0.031	0.031	800,000
Vulcan Ind'l	0.19	0.19	0.19	0.19	100,000

CURRENCIES

September 3, 2004 Country	Unit	Euro Equivalent	Dollar Equivalent	Peso Equivalent
United States	Dollar	0.821625	1.000000	56.1790
Japan	Yen	0.007502	0.009131	0.5130
United Kingdom	Pound	1.469970	1.789100	100.5098
Hong Kong	Dollar	0.105378	0.128256	7.2053
Switzerland	Franc	0.651154	0.792519	44.5229
Canada	Dollar	0.632311	0.769586	43.2346
Singapore	Dollar	0.482713	0.587510	33.0057
Australia	Dollar	0.571128	0.695120	39.0511
Bahrain	Dinar*	2.179551	2.652731	149.0278
Saudi Arabia	Rial	0.219106	0.266674	14.9815
Brunei	Dollar	0.481299	0.585789	32.9090
Indonesia	Rupiah	0.000089	0.000108	0.0061
Thailand	Baht	0.019789	0.024085	1.3531
UAE	Dirham	0.223699	0.272264	15.2955
Euro	Euro	1.000000	1.217100	68.3755
Argentina	Peso	0.274103	0.333611	18.7419
Brazil	Real	0.279941	0.340716	19.1411
Denmark	Kroner	0.134484	0.163680	9.1954
India	Rupee	0.017765	0.021622	1.2147
Malaysia	Ringgit	0.216223	0.263165	14.7843
Mexico	New Peso	0.071396	0.086896	4.8817
New Zealand	Dollar	0.533245	0.649013	36.4609
Norway	Kroner	0.120272	0.146383	8.2237
Pakistan	Rupee	0.013980	0.017015	0.9559
South Africa	Rand	0.125606	0.152875	8.5884
Korea	Won	0.000715	0.000870	0.0489
Sweden	Kroner	0.109668	0.133477	7.4986
Syria	Pound	0.015941	0.019402	1.0900
Taiwan	Nt Dollar	0.024337	0.029621	1.6641
Venezuela	Bolivar	0.000429	0.000522	0.0293

Piltel ups authorized capital to ₱12.8B

By Clarissa S. Batino

STOCKHOLDERS of Pilipino Telephone Corp. yesterday approved the increase in the company's authorized capital to P12.8 billion from P3.5 billion, paving the way for Smart Communications Inc. to complete within the month its acquisition of 92 percent of Piltel.

Napoleon Nazareno, Smart president, said the purchase of Piltel shares from Philippine Long Distance Telephone Co. would allow the two wireless subsidiaries to closely align operations and maximize the growth potential of the local cellular market.

As of the end of the first half, Smart and Piltel's Talk 'N Text have 16.1 million subscribers, allowing Smart to post a net income of P11.6 billion, and Piltel with P809 million.

"The approval of the increase in capital is needed to convert the preferred shares to common shares," said Nazareno, concurrent president of PLDT.

Nazareno said that by the end of the month, Smart would own 92 percent of Piltel after converting the Series K preferred shares into common shares, followed by the purchase of PLDT's remaining common shares in Piltel.

"Once we own 92 percent of Piltel ... we would let Piltel take advantage of the growth especially from the lower segment of the market," said Nazareno, who also chairs Piltel.

Smart is buying 92 percent of Piltel from PLDT. The equity transaction comes in two stages: the purchase of 59 million Series K convertible preferred shares equivalent to about 47 percent; to be followed with the acquisition of 767 million common shares equivalent to about 45 percent.

PLDT had agreed to sell the preferred shares for a total of P2.066 billion. The common shares are only worth P157 million based on a per share price of 20.5 centavos.

Piltel, according to Nazareno, is key to Smart's penetration of the D and E markets.

He stressed anew that the completion of equity transaction was not a prelude to any merger between the two wireless firms or a backdoor listing of Smart through Piltel.

At the same time, Nazareno pointed out that Smart's acquisition of Piltel could not have come at a better time for the latter. Smart absorbed the bulk of Piltel's debt after the restructuring that took place during the second quarter.

Smart is now Piltel's biggest creditor. Piltel's debts have been restructured such that the maturity of its debts are well distributed until 2016, except for 2011 when it had to settle $213.6 million.

Nazareno said that last June, Piltel settled about $400,000 in principal debt, the first debt payment for Piltel in a long time.

Next year, Piltel would settle another $400,000, followed by $4.3 million in 2006.

The Series K preferred shares are crucial to Piltel's debt restructuring in 2001. "Without Piltel's issuance to PLDT of the Series K preferred shares in 2001, Piltel's debt restructuring would not have been successful," Nazareno said. "Piltel would have been insolvent and its shareholders would have lost everything."

SEC OKs Sunlife bid for more securities

THE SECURITIES and Exchange Commission has approved the registration of additional common shares for mutual fund Sun Life of Canada Prosperity Dollar Advantage.

The Prosperity Dollar Advantage is managed by Sun Life Asset Management Co., the fund manager for Sun Life of Canada's other mutual funds.

Sun Life will register additional 2.2 million common shares at par of P1 per share, and a net asset value of P120.55 per share as of Aug. 10.

With the offering of additional securities, SunLife hopes to raise proceeds of roughly P265.21 million, assuming all shares are sold at their net asset value per share.

The proposed 2.2 million additional shares will also increase the fund's authorized capital stock to P4.2 million from P2 million.

SEC said Sun LIfe will use proceeds from the sale of the securities to invest in foreign exchange fixed income securities issued by the Philippines, the United States and other foreign governments and corporations.

As much as twenty percent of the Sun Life Prosperity Dollar Advantage Fund may be invested in foreign-exchange denominated securities issued abroad.

Elizabeth L. Sanchez

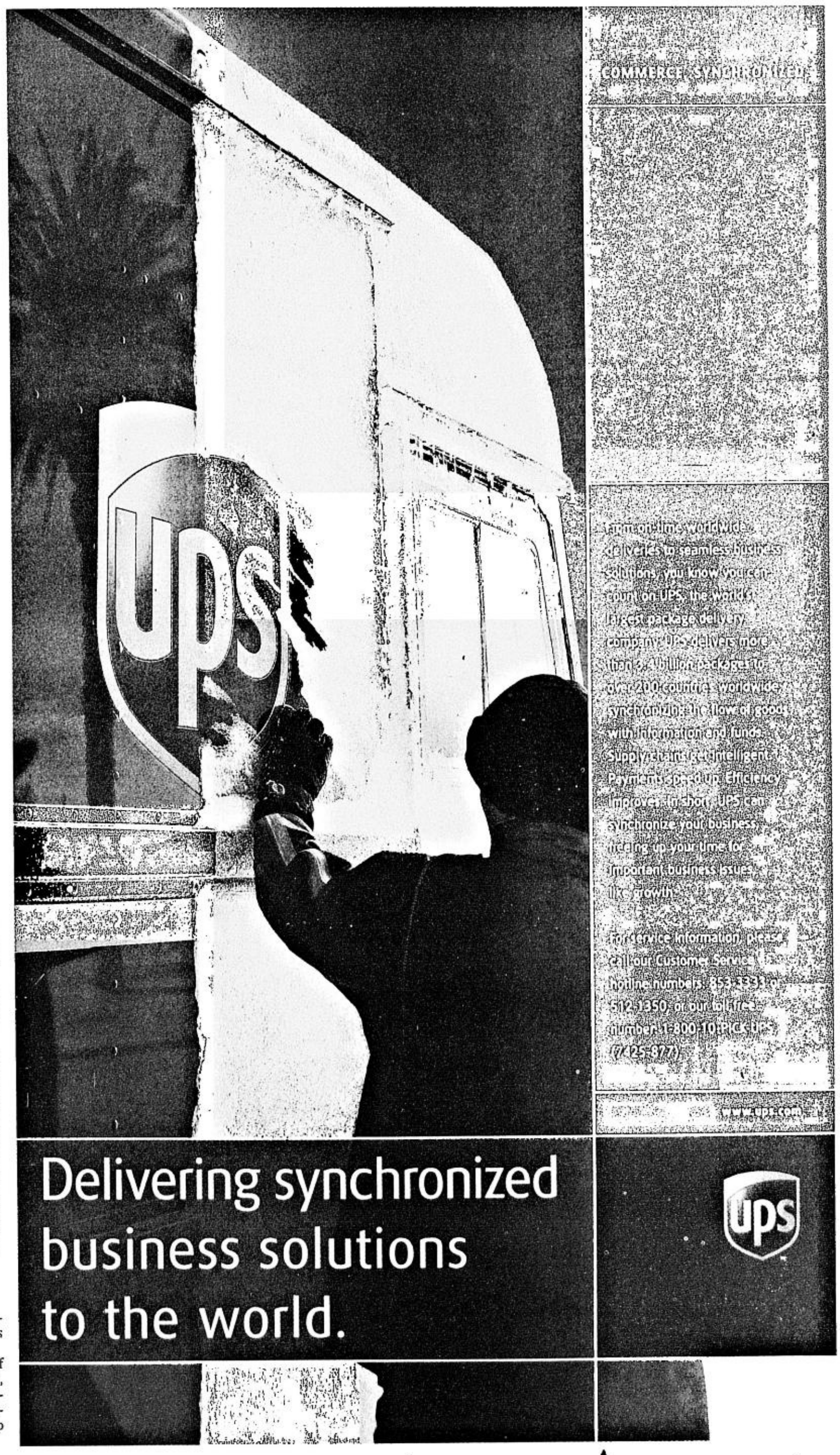
Export growth . . .

From page B1

posted a 68.1 percent growth.

Neri pointed out that economic policy must continue to be directed at diversifying both the export product base and the export market. He also said private companies must take advantage of the large consumer demand in China especially for agro-based products and minerals while companies producing semiconductors must move up the value chain.

The economic planning chief said the government, for its part, was focusing its efforts on improving infrastructure, addressing power issues, and beefing up the quality of education.



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REAL ESTATE FOR SALE

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STA. ANA VILLAS 4BR/5T&B 3 STOREY 2 CAR GARAGE T-8184238/8127741 Juliet

MANDALUYONG

8 Wack² 3BR Furn w/View Prkg • 0917-5245935 Tony

PASIG

ALEXANDRA Condo 3BR 3TB F/F 721-3127 • 532-5487

Spacious Townhomes 3BR 3TB w/BTub & Maids Rm Grge w/Pool & Security at VV6 22T • Call 687-5401 Tess

QUEZON CITY

OHT-3 Unit 17H 2BR Furnish Eastwood City Libis 633-0164

PHILAM TOWNHOUSE FRONT EDSA Bldg 2 UNIT 7 7361925

APARTMENT

MAKATI

14T 3640C Bautista St. Mkt 2 mon. dep. 1 mon. adv. 2BR 1 bath T831-5447

2BR 1BR w/grge 8992148

2BR HONDA ST GRGE 12T CALL 8820203 ; 09178318551

MANILA

840 P.Noval NR UST Tel 7313035 7361925 9289541

PARANAQUE

2brs Apt. #1C Canada St. Better Living P6,500 7722160

QUEZON CITY

41Fema nr EDSA Proj8- 9211050

Cubao Apart 9957167-68

Lady 3.5Tnew studio9137513

REAL ESTATE FOR RENT

ROOM & BOARD

120 MLA 7118679/4112311

1BR w/AC 3T MKT 8992148

BF PQUE 8257524/24HRS

BUENDIA PASAY 8345973 SEMI FURN FREE L/W 1 PER ONLY COM - CR 3T MO

•FURNISH PASAY 8872865•

LADIES NR MKTI 5628581

RM NR UST 0916-6630453

BEDSPACE

Resdn'l/Furnish 2PerRm Male Single Bed T897-3770

LOAN & MORTGAGE

2% W/O TAKING CAR 3677523/24

93 CORONA P210K VIC 8907647

BUSINES DOCTOR 524-3197

FINANCING-EASY FAST VERY PRIVATE CONVENIENT H/L BUSINESS PERSONAL Gigie Ernie 8903461 loc 25/23

OFFICE SPACE FOR RENT

50 sqm Ortigas 09178454534

REAL ESTATE FOR SALE OR RENT

CONDO/TWHSE/ FOR SALE/RENT

EDSA MANSION 2 TWNHOUSE 3BR nr Baclaran & Makati T-8184238/8127741 Juliet

QUEZON CITY

NEW MANILA 3BR 182SM 9529590

APARTMENT FOR SALE/RENT

APT P4,500-7,000 Manila Bedspacers 1,500 above 561-0960 look for Joyce/AJ

TRANSPORTATION FOR SALE

CARS

FORD

FORD Expedition XLT 98 low mileage 0917-5374140

MERCEDES

Benz'91 Model A/T 230E Good Condition P380,000 Cell - 09178114261

For Rent Table Space Business Center In Cityland Herrera Tower - P5,000 per Table. 09178114261

VAN/PICK-UP

PREGIO '98 LS 0916-2222686

OTHER CAR BRANDS

Trooper Terrano Town-HI Ace safari Delica Estima etc 7127539 ; 09178215832

BUSES/TRUCKS

WATER DELIVERY TRUCK COMPLETE SET P270 •TEL#809-8046•

TRANSPORTATION FOR RENT

CARS FOR RENT

Starex MB100 Coaster Bus HI-Ace • 534-4003 / 631-3496

Benz Jaguar Lincoln 6825922

CAR VANS 410-0495

CarsVans CoasterBus 422-9296

Cheap Van Rental 9330311

FATIMA TRANSPORT VAN 422-7925 / 0917-8512097

L-3/ADV 415-8473

STAREX'04 MB100 9483535

NISSAN ESC STAREX 8276605

NISSAN Urvan 0917-5444721

ABC RENT A CAR
NEW CARS & VANS
PAJERO • HI-ACE
REVO • VIOS • ALTIS • STAREX
CRLA • CRV • LYNX • 536-8622
303-9789 • 426-2278 • 426-4084

TRANSPORTATION FOR RENT

CARS FOR RENT

P800/L3 9136710 / 4333682

Toyco U Drive Coaster / Car Vans Rental • 8023022 or 21

CAR LOAN

1.5% Fast Car Loan 3677523/24

1.5% CARLOAN 373-6519

1.5% CARLOAN 533-8254

1.5% Easy Carloan 7815352/55

1.5% Fast Car Loan 6580140

1.5% Fast Car Loan 6567685

1.5% w/oTaking Car 3650974/75

1.5% w/oTaking Car 3732081-82

1.5% w/oTaking Car 7228942-43

•1HR Fast Car Loan 7125202•

2% w/o taking car 7880183-84

2% w/o Taking Car 7262780

2% w/oTaking Car 7221021

2% w/oTaking Car 8966630/33

2% w/oTaking Car 8870490/95

2% w/oTaking Car 8959454

GENERAL ITEMS FOR SALE

BILLIARDS

Sale Rental Servce 8014494

GENERAL ITEMS FOR SALE

BUY/SELL

CAP/PRUD PLANS GIE 7800106

EDUC'L PLAN Dang 8061574

GARAGE SALE

GARAGE SALE Sept.4 & 5 9-5 pm at 44 Fourth St., New Mla., Roling Hills, Q.C.

HEALTH & BEAUTY

Control weight now 3758988

PETS

BEAGLES Tricolor complete shots M 12K 8090778

Cute Lhasas CHBL 8906374

ENJOY YOUR DOGS!!! PHILIPPINE DOG SCHOOL TRAINS FOR OBEDIENCE SECURITY OFF-LEASHED HAND SIGNAL 721-3736

LAB PUPS W/ PAPERS & VAC. 3MOS 6T ONLY 09166577616

GENERAL ITEMS FOR SALE

WANTED TO BUY

BUY • SELL • PAWN
ROLEX+OTHERS
DIAMONDS/JEWELRY
Repair / Polish Any watch
MANILA WATCH EXCHANGE
Hyatt • 804-0484 / 834-2686
Mkti 893-0618 • G'hills 724-4374

BUYING ROLEX
Other WATCHES, BEST PRICE
0917-8142309 • 7269687
7220433 • 4123543

PUBLIC NOTICES

LEGAL NOTICE

Notice is hereby given that the estate of the late LEOCADIO T. DATU consisting of personal property was extrajudicially settled and adjudicated to his sole and only heir by means of a public instrument executed on 2 August 2004 and ratified before Atty Flor E. Egipto Notary Public in and for Quezon City as per Doc No. 5136 Page No. 184 Book No. VIII Series of 2004
(PDI Aug 21 28 & Sept 4 2004)

Ambassade du Canada Manille — Canadian Embassy Manila

INSCRIPTION DES CANADIENS

Note aux Canadiens

Tous les citoyens canadiens résidant aux Philippines sont invités à s'inscrire auprès du service consulaire de l'Ambassade du Canada. Cette information est utile en cas d'urgence. L'information est confidentielle et ne peut être divulguée à un tiers parti, incluant les autres Ministères gouvernementaux.

L'inscription peut se faire en personne, par courrier, par fax ou en ligne sur le site web de l'Ambassade du Canada au: www.manille.gc.ca

Il est important de maintenir les dossiers d'inscription à jour. Si vous changez d'adresse ou de numéro de téléphone ou si vous quittez le pays, veuillez en avertir la section consulaire de l'Ambassade.

Ambassade du Canada

Niveau 8, Tour 2
RCBC Plaza
6819 Avenue Ayala
Makati City 1200
P.O. Box 2098
Tél.: 857-9000

Heures d'ouverture consulaire

Du lundi au jeudi:
de 09h00 à 11h30 et de 13h00 à 15h00

Vendredi:
de 09h00 à 13h00

www.manille.gc.ca
Canada

Canadian Embassy Manila — Ambassade du Canada Manille

REGISTRATION OF CANADIANS

Notice to Canadians

Canadian citizens residing in the Philippines are invited to register with the Consular Section of the Canadian Embassy. This information is useful in cases of emergencies. It is confidential and cannot be given to third parties, including other Government Departments.

Registration may be made in person, by mail, by fax or on-line through the Canadian Embassy website at: www.manila.gc.ca

It is important that registration records be up-to-date. If you change your address or telephone number, or if you leave the country, please inform the Consular Section of the Embassy.

Canadian Embassy

Level 8, Tower 2
RCBC Plaza
6819 Ayala Avenue
Makati City 1200
P. O. Box 2098
Tel.: 857-9000

Consular Hours

Monday to Thursday
9:00 a.m. to 11:30 a.m.
and 1:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m.

Friday
9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.

www.manila.gc.ca
Canada

ANNOUNCEMENT

This is to inform the public that V.T. LAGUYO CONSTRUCTION, sole proprietorship, has changed its status and company name to V.T. LAGUYO CONSTRUCTION INC. effective 15 August 2002.

(PDI-Sept 4 2004)

INVESTMENT OPPORTUNITIES

BUSINESS OPPORTUNITIES

A team of Entrepreneurs will be visiting Bohol,Cebu&Makati to introduce an Int'l Business model that's expanding fast.Text bk @ 0919-6967737 to Reserve

earnextranow.com code:alb2004 8531008 09178901851 Arlene

EARN P10T up/week - HOW? share d bisnez 0921-5914739

ExtraIncome upto P10k/mo7423327

Inc Income PT upto 20T/mo3732531

INVESTMENT OPPORTUNITIES

BUSINESS OPPORTUNITIES

RTW Wholesaler 3738821

Start Ur Own Business w/o Capital • 0917-8463228

BUSINESS FOR SALE

RESTAURANT FOR SALE FULLY EQUIPPED T#801-72-03 Cell No. (0917)5398108

Sec. Agency 631-3496 / 534-4003

EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES

MALE

All-Around BOY 9115997

FEMALE

DENTIST 9112448

LAVANDERA 9395640

MAIDS DIRECT HIRE 8705554

STAY-IN SEC, MAID 7337505

Wanted Lady Dentist 8100784

EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES

MALE/FEMALE

BSP•BSN•PT•MT
Any Allied Health Grads up to P45T/ Mol 8922818

Got a Phone? Earn up to P30,000/mo. Flexible Hrs w/Travel Opp. 8927828

JOB HIRING 09196913491 IRA

Sales Consultants
21-40 yrs Old Joni 0918-5316131

DepED

Republic of the Philippines
Department of Education
DepED Complex, Meralco Ave., Pasig City

Invitation for Bids

ICB No. : DepED-2-2004-TX
IFB No. : SEMP2-SEDIP-2004-TX

1. The Republic of the Philippines through the Department of Education (DepED) has received a loan from the International Bank for Reconstruction and Development (IBRD) and Asian Development Bank (ADB). It is intended to apply part of the proceeds of this loan to eligible payments under the contracts for the Supply and Delivery of Makabayan Textbooks (TXs) and Teachers' Manuals (TMs) under SEMP2 and SEDIP.
2. The Department of Education (DepED) through the Bids and Awards Committee (BAC) invites sealed bids from eligible bidders for the Supply and Delivery of Makabayan TXs and TMs in Edukasyong Pantahanan at Pangkabuhayan (EPP) grades 4-6 to public elementary school districts, and Music, Arts, Physical Education and Health (MAPEH) 1st – 4th year to secondary schools under SEMP2 and SEDIP, as follows:

Item No.	Subject Grade/Year Level	Zone 1 Quantity in Copies TX	Zone 1 TM	Zone 2 Quantity in copies TX	Zone 2 TM	Zone 3 Quantity in Copies TX	Zone 3 TM	Zone 4 Quantity in Copies TX	Zone 4 TM	Total Quantity in Copies TX	Total TM
	Elementary										
1	EPP 4	400.169	11.429	608.855	17.394	411,509	11,757	411.086	11,746	1,831,619	52.326
2	EPP 5	388.171	11.089	580.922	16.598	389.936	11.145	390.489	11,157	1,749,518	49.989
3	EPP 6	380.393	10.864	557,229	15,922	370,657	10.586	366.294	10,465	1,674,573	47,837
	High School										
4	MAPEH I	354,957	9.661	555,433	15,418	364,284	8,274	372.012	8,765	1,646.686	42.116
5	MAPEH II	342.010	9.382	530.052	14,765	333.696	7,705	333.750	7.990	1,539.508	39.842
6	MAPEH III	273.007	7.431	417.030	11.558	273.398	6,127	266.259	6.187	1,229.882	31.301
7	MAPEH IV	228,474	6,145	340.382	9,400	233.664	5,100	219.809	5,032	1,020,529	25.677

* Combined Quantity of SEMP2 and SEDIP

Estimated Printing and Delivery Completion Period: 150 days. Indicative Printing and Delivery Dates: March to July 2005.

3. The mode of procurement shall be through International Competitive Bidding (ICB). A bidder may opt to bid on any or all of the lots required. A margin of preference shall be granted to TXs and TMs manufactured in Purchaser's country for purposes of bid price comparison only.
4. Interested eligible bidders may obtain further information or inspect the Bidding Documents from 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. starting **September 22, 2004** at the Bids and Awards Committee (BAC) Office, Ground Floor, Rizal I Building, DepED Complex, Pasig City, 1605 Philippines, Tel. Nos. (632) 636-6542/633-9342 or at Fax No. (632) 635-3762. Information is also available at **http://www.deped.gov.ph** or **www.procurementservice.org.**
5. A complete set of Bidding Documents in English may be purchased by interested eligible bidders upon submission of a written application to the address given in paragraph 4 and payment of a non-refundable fee in the amount of Php3,000.00 or US$55.00 The method of payment will be cash, cashier's or manager's check, or certified check. The Bidding Documents will be sent by mail. No liability will be accepted for loss or late delivery.
6. All bids shall be accompanied by a bid security of not less than 2.5% of the total bid amount, in Philippine peso or in any freely convertible currency of eligible countries and shall be delivered in accordance with the Instructions to Bidders on or before **10:00 a.m.** on **October 29, 2004** and will be publicly opened immediately thereafter at the Bulwagan ng Karunungan, Rizal I Building, DepED Complex, Meralco Avenue, Pasig City, Philippines.
7. Prior to bid opening, a pre-bid conference shall be conducted on **October 8, 2004** at 10:00 a.m. at the same address indicated in paragraph 6.
8. The DepED reserves the right to accept and reject any or all bids and to annul the bidding process at any time prior to award of Contract(s) without incurring any liability to the affected bidders and to waive any minor informality or non-conformity in a bid which does not constitute a material deviation, provided such waiver will not prejudice or affect competitive ranking of any bid.

(Sgd.) JUAN MIGUEL LUZ
Undersecretary and Chairperson,
Bids and Awards Committee

(PDI – Sept. 4 & 11, 2004)

LAND BANK OF THE PHILIPPINES

Ang Bangkong May Damdaming-Bayan

1598 M. H. del Pilar St. cor. Dr. J. Quintos St., Malate, Manila
Tel. Nos. 522-00-00; 526-01-00 connecting all departments

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

The Land Bank of the Philippines invites interested suppliers who are (a) duly licensed Filipino citizens/sole proprietorship; or (b) 60% Filipino owned partnerships/corporations; or (c) two or more suppliers forming into joint ventures jointly and severally liable; or (d) cooperatives duly registered with the CDA; with largest single contract, similar to the items for bid, for the last 2 years, at least equal to 50% of the approved budget; and with Net Financial Contracting Capacity (NFCC) at least equal to the approved budget, to apply for eligibility and to bid for the following items:

ITB No.	Item / Description	Approved Budget	Source of Funds
2004-197	32 units Document Scanner	P 3,840,000.00	LBP Funds

Bidding of the above requirements is scheduled on September 29, 2004 at 1:00 p.m. and the Bid Documents may be obtained from the Procurement Division of the General Services Department, 25th Floor, LANDBANK Plaza, M. H. del Pilar corner Dr. Quintos Streets, Malate, Manila, upon payment of a non-refundable fee of P1,000.00.

Interested suppliers are requested to attend the Pre-Bid Conference scheduled on September 16, 2004, 10:00 AM at the 25th Floor, Conference Room, LANDBANK Plaza, Malate, Manila.

All particulars relative to the Qualification/Eligibility, Bid Bond, Performance Bond, Pre-bid Conference, Bid Evaluation and Award of Contract shall be governed by the provisions of RA 9184 and its Implementing Rules and Regulations.

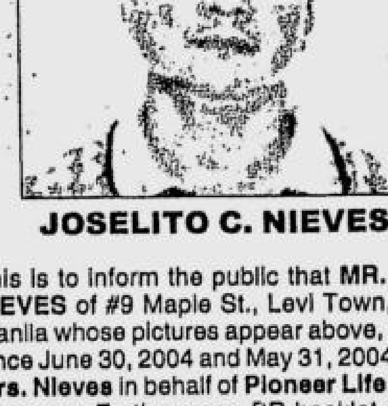
Only those bidders who comply with the Bank's requirements shall be eligible to participate in the bidding.

LANDBANK reserves the right to reject any or all bids, to declare the bidding a failure or waive any defect or informality and to accept bids as may be considered most advantageous to the Bank.

COMMITTEE ON BIDS AND AWARDS

(PDI-Sept. 4, 2004)

NOTICE TO THE PUBLIC



JOSELITO C. NIEVES

MARILYN J. NIEVES

This is to inform the public that **MR. JOSELITO C. NIEVES** and **MRS. MARILYN J. NIEVES** of #9 Maple St., Levi Town, Phase VI Betterliving Subd., Parañaque, Metro Manila whose pictures appear above, are no longer connected with **PIONEER LIFE INC.** since June 30, 2004 and May 31, 2004 respectively. Transactions undertaken by **Mr.** and **Mrs. Nieves** in behalf of **Pioneer Life Inc.** after the said dates, will not be honored by the company. Furthermore, PR booklet #2572 covering PR#121776-121800 assigned to **Mr. Joselito C. Nieves** and PR booklet #360 covering PR#37951-38000 & PR booklet #802 covering PR#60051-60100 assigned to **Mrs. Marilyn Nieves** have been lost and any transaction made through said PR booklets shall not be honored.

PIONEER LIFE INC.
Pioneer House Makati, 108 Paseo de Roxas, Legaspi Village
Makati City 1229, Tel: +63 2 812 7777 Fax: +63 2 812 2051

(PDI-Sept. 4, 2004)

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PNB

PUBLIC AUCTION
ISABELA PROPERTIES

SEPTEMBER 14, 2004 • TUESDAY • 2:00 p.m.
CARIG PLAZA HOTEL
Open Pavillion
Mabini, Santiago City

SANTIAGO CITY

LOT 1 - LOT & IMPRVMNT
Lot Area: 278 sqm.
Floor Area: 82 sqm.
Lot No. 1, Brgy Divisoria
Minimum Bid Price 340,000.00

LOT 2 - LOT ONLY
Lot Area 300 sqm.
Lot 752-E-6-A Patul
Minimum Bid Price 383,000.00

LOT 3 - LOT ONLY
Lot Area 300 sqm.
Lot 752-E-6-B Patul
Minimum Bid Price 383,000.00

LOT 4 - LOT & IMPRVMNT
Lot Area 137 sqm.
Floor Area: 42 sqm.
Lot #103, Abaya St., Victory Norte
Minimum Bid Price 484,000.00

LOT 5 - LOT & IMPRVMNT
Lot Area: 248 sqm.
Floor Area: 134.2 sqm.
Lot 540-A, Quezon Ave, Victory Norte
Minimum Bid Price 862,000.00

LOT 6 - LOT ONLY
Lot Area 53,005 sqm.
Lot No. 1, Sinili
Minimum Bid Price 973,000.00

LOT 7 - LOT & IMPRVMNT
Lot Area 631 sqm.
Floor Area: 400 sqm.
Lot 1020 & 1021, Del Pilar St., Rosario
Minimum Bid Price 2,239,000.00

LOT 8 - LOT & IMPRVMNT
Lot Area 1,522 sqm.
Floor Area: 120 sqm.
Lot 7311-A-2-A, Veterans St. Plaridel
Minimum Bid Price 2,300,000.00

LOT 9 - LOT & IMPRVMNT
Lot Area: 1,829 sqm.
Floor Area: 370 sqm.
Lot Nos. 1 To 6, Blk 7, Mabini
Minimum Bid Price 4,674,000.00

LOT 10 - LOT & IMPRVMNT
Lot Area: 1,040 sqm.
Floor Area: 194 sqm.
Lot 1465-D-2-B, 1465-D-2-A
1465-D-1,Nat'l Road San Andres
Minimum Bid Price 4,870,000.00

LOT 11 - LOT ONLY
Lot Area: 1,349 sqm.
Lot No 482-F-4 Mabini
Minimum Bid Price 2,024,000.00

LOT 12 - LOT & IMPRVMNT
Lot Area 1,113 sqm.
Floor Area: 48 sqm.
Lot No 432-F-3, Mabini
Minimum Bid Price 3,422,000.00

LOT 13 - LOT ONLY
Lot Area: 1,407 sqm.
Lot 482-F-9, Mabini
Minimum Bid Price 958,000.00

LOT 14 - LOT & IMPRVMNT
Lot Area 225 sqm.
Floor Area: 100 sqm.
Lot 2 Blk 17, No. 24 Rose St.
Baptista Village, Calao
Minimum Bid Price 778,000.00

LOT 15 - LOT ONLY
Lot Area 600 sqm.
Lot 752-E-7 Patul
Minimum Bid Price 765,000.00

LOT 16 - LOT ONLY
Lot Area 400 sqm.
Lot 752-E-8 Patul
Minimum Bid Price 600,000.00

LOT 17 - LOT ONLY
Lot Area. 785 sqm.
Lot 4988-B-1 & B-5,Along V. Mapa & Torres Sts ,Plaridel
Minimum Bid Price 1,748,000.00

LOT 18 - LOT ONLY
Lot Area 382 sqm.
Lot 4988-B-3,Along V. Mapa, Plaridel
Minimum Bid Price 1,089,000.00

LOT 19 - LOT ONLY
Lot Area 367 sqm.
Lot 4988-B-2,Along Torres, Plaridel
Minimum Bid Price 1,103,000.00

LOT 20 - LOT & IMPRVMNT
Lot Area 2,452 sqm.
Floor Area 211 sqm.
Lot 1378-A, Corner Dela Cruz and Viloria Sts., Buenavista
Minimum Bid Price 2,391,000.00

LOT 21 - LOT & IMPRVMNT
Lot Area 298.57 sqm.
Floor Area 192 sqm.
Lot 621 No 21 Recto Ave , Victory Sur
Minimum Bid Price 986,000.00

LOT 22 - LOT & IMPRVMNT
Lot Area: 1,538 sqm.
Floor Area 72 sqm.
Lot 20037, No 26 Purok 2
Madamba St Rizal
Minimum Bid Price 1,579,000.00

LOT 23 - LOT & IMPRVMNT
Lot Area 893 sqm.
Floor Area 98 sqm.
Lot 10053-A, Gomez St., Rosario
Santiago City Isabela
Minimum Bid Price 1,722,000.00

LOT 24 - LOT & IMPRVMNT
Lot Area 1,747 sqm.
Floor Area 115 sqm.
Lot 10053-B, & 10053-C
Gomez St , Rosario
Minimum Bid Price 3,344,000.00

LOT 25 - LOT ONLY
Lot Area. 1,726 sqm.
Lot Nos. 10053-D & 10053-E
Gomez St , Rosario
Minimum Bid Price 3,279.000 00

ALICIA

LOT 26 - LOT & IMPRVMNT
Lot Area 1,014 sqm
Floor Area 102 sqm.
Lot 8 Blk 3, Rizal
Minimum Bid Price 200,000.00

LOT 27 - LOT & IMPRVMNT
Lot Area. 112 sqm
Floor Area 200 sqm
Lot 14-A, Calaocan
Minimum Bid Price 1,308,000.00

LOT 28 - LOT ONLY
Lot Area 2,931 sqm
Lot 6-C-6-O & 6-N, National Rd ,
Victoria
Minimum Bid Price 997,000.00

LOT 29 - LOT & IMPRVMNT
Lot Area 716 sqm.
Floor Area 165 sqm.
Lot 6-A & 6-B, National Rd , Victoria
Minimum Bid Price 3,162,000.00

LOT 30 - LOT ONLY
Lot Area 800 sqm.
Lot I Calaocan
Minimum Bid Price 204,000.00

LOT 31 - LOT ONLY
Lot Area: 3,605 sqm.
Lot 13-C Poblacion
Minimum Bid Price 1,021,000.00

AURORA

LOT 32 - LOT & IMPRVMNT
Lot Area: 1,102.5 sqm.
Floor Area: 44 sqm.
Lot 1-A Brgy San Ramon
Minimum Bid Price 585,000.00

LOT 33 - LOT ONLY
Lot Area: 138 sqm.
L2989-A Pasuquin St.
San Pedro/San Pablo
Minimum Bid Price 176,000.00

LOT 34 - LOT & IMPRVMNT
Lot Area 909 sqm.
Floor Area 456 sqm.
Lot 1618-A-2-G-1-C & Lot 1618-A-2-G-1-A Cacal St., Bagong Lirlis
Minimum Bid Price 1,183,000.00

LOT 35 - LOT & IMPRVMNT
Lot Area 550 sqm.
Floor Area 113 sqm.
Lot 2856, San Jose
Minimum Bid Price 948,000.00

LOT 36 - LOT ONLY
Lot Area 318.5 sqm.
Lot 3301-E Bagong Tanza
Minimum Bid Price 25,000.00

BURGOS

LOT 37 - LOT & IMPRVMNT
Lot Area 346.66 sqm.
Floor Area 207 sqm.
Lot 20234-C, Caliguian
Minimum Bid Price 742,000.00

CABAGAN

LOT 38 - LOT & IMPRVMNT
Lot Area 539 sqm.
Floor Area 252 sqm.
Lot 2430 Cubag
Minimum Bid Price 368,000.00

LOT 39 - LOT ONLY
Lot Area 1,203 sqm.
Lot 2219-B Cubag
Minimum Bid Price 85,000.00

LOT 40 - LOT ONLY
Lot Area. 1,100 sqm.
Lot 2219-A Cubag
Minimum Bid Price 74,000.00

LOT 41 - LOT & IMPRVMNT
Lot Area: 550 sqm.
Floor Area: 109 sqm.
Lot 1406-D & Lot 1406-E Barrio of Luquilu
Minimum Bid Price 427,000.00

CABATUAN

LOT 42 - LOT ONLY
Lot Area 787 sqm.
Lot 2208-B, Centro
Minimum Bid Price 484,000.00

LOT 43 - LOT ONLY
Lot Area 869 sqm.
Lot 243-New-A-7, Centro
Minimum Bid Price 212,000.00

LOT 44 - LOT & IMPRVMNT
Lot Area 1,363 sqm.
Floor Area: 51 sqm.
Lot 2098-E-4-A & 2098-E-4-B
Barrio of Paraiso
Minimum Bid Price 750,000.00

LOT 45 - LOT ONLY
Lot Area 640 sqm.
Lot 2204-B Along Prv'l Rd.
Purok 1, Saranay
Minimum Bid Price 513,000.00

CAUAYAN

LOT 46 - LOT ONLY
Lot Area 513 sqm.
Lot 4, Provincial Rd , Poblacion
Minimum Bid Price 1,841,000.00

LOT 47 - LOT ONLY
Lot Area 424 sqm.
Lot 2-G, Renza
Minimum Bid Price 115,000.00

LOT 48 - LOT ONLY
Lot Area 324 sqm.
Lot B-4-E San Fermin
Minimum Bid Price 29,000.00

LOT 49 - LOT ONLY
Lot Area 300 sqm.
Lot B-3-C-13 Prenza
Minimum Bid Price 77,000.00

LOT 50 - LOT ONLY
Lot Area 300 sqm.
Lot 10 Blk 2, San Fermin
Minimum Bid Price 28,000.00

LOT 51 - LOT ONLY
Lot Area 437 sqm.
Lot 2-A-4 Tagaran
Minimum Bid Price 93,000.00

LOT 52 - LOT ONLY
Lot Area 625 sqm.
Lot 2-A-3 Tagaran
Minimum Bid Price 133,000.00

LOT 53 - LOT ONLY
Lot Area 300 sqm.
Lot 1 Blk 5 San Fermin
Minimum Bid Price 31,000.00

LOT 54 - LOT ONLY
Lot Area 648 sqm
Lot 386-B-2-A Alicaocao
Minimum Bid Price 83,000.00

LOT 55 - LOT ONLY
Lot Area 1,390 sqm
Lot J-1 Baringin
Minimum Bid Price 48,000.00

LOT 56 - LOT ONLY
Lot Area. 936 sqm.
Lot 20537-A Rizal(Formerly Cullalabal)
Minimum Bid Price 119,000.00

LOT 57 - LOT & IMPRVMNT
Lot Area 1,012 sqm.
Floor Area 175 sqm.
Lot No 4713-B, Brgy Rizal
Minimum Bid Price 788,000.00

LOT 58 - LOT & IMPRVMNT
Lot Area 649 sqm.
Floor Area 86 sqm.
Lot 1-A-21-L, F. Dalupang St.
Extension, District 1
Minimum Bid Price 1,254,000.00

LOT 59 - LOT ONLY
Lot Area 1,350 sqm
Lot E,District I
Minimum Bid Price 29,000.00

LOT 60 - LOT ONLY
Lot Area 382 sqm
Lot 19 Sillawit
Minimum Bid Price 98,000.00

LOT 61 - LOT ONLY
Lot Area 1,629 sqm.
Lot B-5-B-1-C Cabaruan
Minimum Bid Price 306,000.00

LOT 62 - LOT ONLY
Lot Area. 1,497 sqm.
Lots 3,1 & 5, National Rd , Renza
Minimum Bid Price 2,545,000.00

LOT 63 - LOT ONLY
Lot Area. 500 sqm.
Lot B-5-C Nat'l Rd Prenza
Minimum Bid Price 1,425,000.00

LOT 64 - LOT ONLY
Lot Area 500 sqm.
Lot B-5-D Nat'l Rd Prenza
Minimum Bid Price 1,663,000.00

LOT 65 - LOT ONLY
Lot Area 2,000 sqm.
Lot B-5-E & Lot B-5-F-3-S-5
National Road Prenza
Minimum Bid Price 4,080,000.00

LOT 66 - LOT ONLY
Lot Area 250 sqm.
Lot C-5-D-1-C, San Fermin
Minimum Bid Price 128,000.00

LOT 67 - LOT ONLY
Lot Area 395 sqm.
Lot 1-E Prenza
Minimum Bid Price 135,000.00

LOT 68 - LOT & IMPRVMNT
Lot Area 300 sqm.
Floor Area: 155 sqm.
Lot 4-A Along Nat'l Highway, Minante
Minimum Bid Price 1,488,000.00

LOT 69 - LOT & IMPRVMNT
Lot Area 460 sqm.
Floor Area 133 sqm.
Lot 20 Prenza(Now San Fermin)
Minimum Bid Price 813,000.00

LOT 70 - LOT ONLY
Lot Area 1,000 sqm.
Lot No 20753-B, San Fermin
Minimum Bid Price 334,000.00

LOT 71 - LOT & IMPRVMNT
Lot Area 345 sqm.
Floor Area 152 sqm.
Lot 3 Blk 3, Coloma Subd., San Fermin
Minimum Bid Price 445,000.00

GAMU

LOT 72 - LOT ONLY
Lot Area 564 sqm.
L4238-A-3-D Along Upi- Roxas Rd.
Mabini
Minimum Bid Price 48,000.00

LOT 73 - LOT & IMPRVMNT
Lot Area: 2,429 sqm.
Floor Area 188 sqm.
Lot 1510 Corner Libertad &
Las Perlas Sts., District 1
Minimum Bid Price 1,600,000.00

LOT 74 - LOT ONLY
Lot Area 450 sqm.
Lot 17 Along Nat'l Road, Upi
Minimum Bid Price 77,000.00

LOT 75 - LOT ONLY
Lot Area 450 sqm
Lot 18 Along Nat'l Rd., Upi
Minimum Bid Price 86,000.00

ILAGAN

LOT 76 - LOT ONLY
Lot Area 1,200 sqm.
Lot 1-B-2-D-4 & Lot 1-B-2-D-3
Alibagu
Minimum Bid Price 1,479,000.00

LOT 77 - LOT & IMPRVMNT
Lot Area 362 sqm.
Floor Area 85 sqm
Lot 13069 Along Nat'l Road Marana 1st
Minimum Bid Price 212,000.00

LOT 78 - LOT ONLY
Lot Area 493 sqm.
Lot 13125 Marana 1st
Minimum Bid Price 76,000.00

LOT 79 - LOT ONLY
Lot Area 553 sqm.
Lot 2 Blk 15 Capitol Hill, Calamagui
Minimum Bid Price 35,000.00

LOT 80 - LOT ONLY
Lot Area 488 sqm
Lot 1 Blk 15 Capitol Hill, Calamagui
Minimum Bid Price 63,000.00

LOT 81 - LOT ONLY
Lot Area 2,490 sqm.
Lot 2-A Calamagui 2nd
Minimum Bid Price 539,000.00

LOT 82 - LOT ONLY
Lot Area. 447 sqm.
Lot No 7 Calamagui 1st
Minimum Bid Price 81,000.00

JONES

LOT 83 - LOT ONLY
Lot Area 9,040 sqm.
Lot F & Lot G Fugo
Minimum Bid Price 284,000.00

MALLIG

LOT 84 - LOT & IMPRVMNT
Lot Area 1,000 sqm.
Floor Area 54 sqm.
Lot 591-C Barrio Of Olango
Minimum Bid Price 685,000.00

LOT 85 - LOT & IMPRVMNT
Lot Area 732 sqm.
Floor Area 105 sqm.
Lots 4108-A & Lot 4108-B Siempre Viva
Minimum Bid Price 1,005,000.00

LOT 86 - LOT ONLY
Lot Area 752 sqm
Lot 3903, San Jose Norte
Minimum Bid Price 80,000.00

LOT 87 - LOT ONLY
Lot Area 750 sqm.
Lot 3728 San Jose Norte
Minimum Bid Price 150,000.00

LOT 88 - LOT & IMPRVMNT
Lot Area 748 sqm.
Floor Area 105 sqm
Lot 3833 San Jose Norte
Minimum Bid Price 585,000.00

LOT 89 - LOT & IMPRVMNT
Lot Area 1,094 sqm
Floor Area 180 sqm
Lot 39-M, National Road,
Brgy Victoria
Minimum Bid Price 813,000.00

LOT 90 - LOT & IMPRVMNT
Lot Area 537 sqm.
Floor Area 91 sqm.
Lot Nos 72 & 71-A, Casili
Minimum Bid Price 806,000.00

LOT 91 - LOT & IMPRVMNT
Lot Area 2,640 sqm.
Floor Area 189 sqm.
Lot Nos 813-F & 813-G
National Road, Brgy Maligaya
Minimum Bid Price 1,995,000.00

LOT 92 - LOT ONLY
Lot Area 1,916 sqm.
Lot 1031-A-1-D Nat'l Road, Centro 1
Minimum Bid Price 1,310,000.00

LOT 93 - LOT ONLY
Lot Area 2,729 sqm.
Lot 767-R-1, R-2, & R-3,Rang-Ayan
Minimum Bid Price 138,000.00

LOT 94 - LOT ONLY
Lot Area: 3,173 sqm.
Lot No. 767-U-1, U-2, & U-3
Rang-Ayan
Minimum Bid Price 270,000.00

LOT 95 - LOT & IMPRVMNT
Lot Area: 10,000 sqm.
Floor Area 146 sqm.
Lot 767-S, Rang-Ayan
Minimum Bid Price 403,000.00

LOT 96 - LOT & IMPRVMNT
Lot Area: 2,635 sqm.
Floor Area: 110 sqm
Lot 771-A, Rang Ayan
Minimum Bid Price 492,000.00

NAGUILIAN

LOT 97 - LOT & IMPRVMNT
Lot Area 481 sqm.
Floor Area 97 sqm.
Lot 24 National Road
Brgy. San Manuel
Minimum Bid Price 548,000.00

QUEZON

LOT 98 - LOT ONLY
Lot Area 400 sqm.
Lot 2686-C, Abut
Minimum Bid Price 75,000.00

LOT 99 - LOT & IMPRVMNT
Lot Area 400 sqm.
Floor Area: 87 sqm.
Lot 2686-A, Abut
Minimum Bid Price 248,000.00

LOT 100 - LOT & IMPRVMNT
Lot Area: 459 sqm.
Floor Area: 162 sqm.
Lot 8, Blk 4, Abut
Minimum Bid Price 431,000.00

LOT 101 - LOT & IMPRVMNT
Lot Area: 895 sqm.
Floor Area: 213 sqm.
Lot 2 & 2-A,Block 108, Arellano
Minimum Bid Price 1,858,000.00

LOT 102 - LOT & IMPRVMNT
Lot Area 900 sqm.
Floor Area: 288 sqm.
Lot 4-A & 4-B Nat'l Rd Arellano
Minimum Bid Price 2,987,000.00

LOT 103 - LOT ONLY
Lot Area 9,973 sqm.
Lot 2679-B-2 Barrio Abut
Minimum Bid Price 292,000.00

LOT 104 - LOT & IMPRVMNT
Lot Area 889 sqm.
Floor Area: 323 sqm.
Lot 6 Blk 71, National Road, Samonte
Minimum Bid Price 2,339,000.00

LOT 105 - LOT & IMPRVMNT
Lot Area 485 sqm.
Floor Area: 51 sqm.
Lot 5 Blk 13, Barrio Abut
Minimum Bid Price 289,000.00

LOT 106 - LOT & IMPRVMNT
Lot Area 538 sqm.
Floor Area 129 sqm.
Lot Nos 8-A & 8-B Blk 13 Abut
Minimum Bid Price 122,000.00

LOT 107 - LOT & IMPRVMNT
Lot Area 786 sqm.
Floor Area 103 sqm.
Lot 2 Blk 5, National Rd, Abut
Minimum Bid Price 272,000.00

QUIRINO

LOT 108 - LOT ONLY
Lot Area 1,794 sqm.
Lot 23-B San Juan
Minimum Bid Price 84,000.00

ROXAS

LOT 109 - LOT & IMPRVMNT
Lot Area 744 sqm.
Floor Area 248 sqm.
Lot 7855 J P Rizal St.
Cor Cm Recto St.,Rizal
Minimum Bid Price 1,852,000.00

LOT 110 - LOT ONLY
Lot Area 240 sqm.
Lot 14 Blk 7 Bantug(Formerly Vira)
Minimum Bid Price 143,000.00

LOT 111 - LOT & IMPRVMNT
Lot Area 480 sqm.
Floor Area. 60 sqm.
Lots 9 & 10, Blk 7, National Rd , Vira
Minimum Bid Price 1,229,000.00

LOT 112 - LOT & IMPRVMNT
Lot Area: 480 sqm.
Floor Area 94 sqm.
Lots 3 & 4 Blk 7, National Road,Bantug
Minimum Bid Price 986,000.00

LOT 113 - LOT ONLY
Lot Area 480 sqm.
Lot 6 & 7 Blk 4 Nat'l Rd , Bantug
Minimum Bid Price 1,075,000.00

LOT 114 - LOT & IMPRVMNT
Lot Area 228 sqm.
Floor Area 195 sqm.
Lot 1 & Lot 7787-A-1 Leal St Bantug
Minimum Bid Price 3,022,000.00

LOT 115 - LOT & IMPRVMNT
Lot Area 480 sqm.
Floor Area 104 sqm.
Lot 15, Blk 2 & Lot 16, Blk 2, National Rd Bantug (Formerly Vira)
Minimum Bid Price 1,365,000.00

LOT 116 - LOT ONLY
Lot Area 420 sqm.
Lot 7614-B-4 National Road, Bantug
Minimum Bid Price 1,995,000.00

LOT 117 - LOT ONLY
Lot Area 5,070 sqm.
Lot 5797-B, Sotero Nuesa
Minimum Bid Price 471,000.00

LOT 118 - LOT & IMPRVMNT
Lot Area 985 sqm.
Floor Area 252 sqm.
Lots 487-A & 487-B, Provincial Road, Vira
Minimum Bid Price 2,793,000.00

LOT 119 - LOT & IMPRVMNT
Lot Area 9,030 sqm.
Floor Area 179 sqm.
Lots 3886-A,B,D, & F
Provincial Road, Basilio
Minimum Bid Price 2,380,000.00

LOT 120 - LOT ONLY
Lot Area 302 sqm
Lot 7714-B, Gen Antonio Luna St., Vira
Minimum Bid Price 583,000.00

LOT 121 - LOT ONLY
Lot Area 240 sqm.
Lot 6 Blk 11, Vira
Minimum Bid Price 143,000.00

LOT 122 - LOT & IMPRVMNT
Lot Area. 732 sqm.
Floor Area 122 sqm.
Lot 546-D-1, Gen. Gregorio
Del Pilar St. Vira
Minimum Bid Price 962,000.00

LOT 123 - LOT & IMPRVMNT
Lot Area 270 sqm.
Floor Area 266 sqm.
Lot 7840-B-1, Don Mariano
Marcos Ave., Rizal
Minimum Bid Price 4,334,000.00

LOT 124 - LOT & IMPRVMNT
Lot Area 374 sqm.
Floor Area 188 sqm.
Lot 7744-A-2 & 7744-A-1 Pres. Sergio Osmena Ave., Vira
Minimum Bid Price 2,291,000.00

LOT 125 - LOT ONLY
Lot Area 623 sqm.
Lot 7784 Leal St. Bantug(Formerly Vira)
Minimum Bid Price 1,339,000.00

LOT 126 - LOT & IMPRVMNT
Lot Area 270 sqm.
Floor Area 549 sqm.
Lot 7840-A, Don Mariano Marcos Ave.
Rizal,Bantug
Minimum Bid Price 6,032,000.00

LOT 127 - LOT ONLY
Lot Area 12,087 sqm.
Lot 5160-A San Antonio
Minimum Bid Price 1,412,000.00

SAN MANUEL

LOT 128 - LOT & IMPRVMNT
Lot Area 1,701 sqm.
Floor Area: 108 sqm
Lot 8-B, 7004 & 7005 Sandiat East
Minimum Bid Price 708,000.00

LOT 129 - LOT & IMPRVMNT
Lot Area 505 sqm.
Floor Area 117 sqm.
Lot 1-B-3-C-1 & Lot 1-B-3-C-2
Nat'l Rd. Dist I
Minimum Bid Price 935,000.00

LOT 130 - LOT & IMPRVMNT
Lot Area 800 sqm.
Floor Area. 160 sqm.
Lot No 4-L Cabantan
Minimum Bid Price 735,000.00

LOT 131 - LOT ONLY
Lot Area: 1,651 sqm.
Lot No 4-K Cabantan
Minimum Bid Price 421,000.00

LOT 132 - LOT & IMPRVMNT
Lot Area: 2,163 sqm.
Floor Area 76 sqm.
Lot 4-H, Brgy Cabantan
Minimum Bid Price 1,530,000.00

LOT 133 - LOT ONLY
Lot Area 324 sqm.
Lot 12 Blk 4, District 3
Minimum Bid Price 165,000.00

LOT 134 - LOT ONLY
Lot Area 303 sqm.
Lot 19 Blk 7, District 3
Minimum Bid Price 155,000.00

LOT 135 - LOT ONLY
Lot Area 321 sqm.
Lot 20 Blk 7, District 3
Minimum Bid Price 165,000.00

LOT 136 - LOT ONLY
Lot Area 304 sqm
Lot 13 Blk 4, District 3
Minimum Bid Price 155,000.00

LOT 137 - LOT ONLY
Lot Area 334 sqm.
Lot 14 Blk 7, District 3
Minimum Bid Price 106,000.00

LOT 138 - LOT & IMPRVMNT
Lot Area 678 sqm
Floor Area 80 sqm.
Lots 1 & 2, Blk 3, Bonifacio St., District 3
Minimum Bid Price 1,800,000.00

SAN MATEO

LOT 139 - LOT ONLY
Lot Area 3,000 sqm.
Lot 7030-O-5-G Poblacion
Minimum Bid Price 715,000.00

LOT 140 - LOT ONLY
Lot Area 484 sqm.
Lot 9482-B-1, Daramuangan Sur
Minimum Bid Price 823,000.00

LOT 141 - LOT ONLY
Lot Area 2,423 sqm.
Lot 9842-B-2-A & Lot 9842-B-2-M
Provincial Rd., Poblacion I
Minimum Bid Price 1,570,000.00

LOT 142 - LOT & IMPRVMNT
Lot Area 680 sqm.
Floor Area 620 sqm.
Lot 9841-F-1B & Lot 9841-F-1-A
Poblacion
Minimum Bid Price 4,276,000.00

LOT 143 - LOT & IMPRVMNT
Lot Area 541 sqm.
Floor Area 595 sqm.
Lot 9842-A Brgy 1 Poblacion
Minimum Bid Price 2,696,000.00

LOT 144 - LOT ONLY
Lot Area 30,000 sqm.
Lot 6710-D-3 Barrio Liwliwa
(New Villa Cruz)
Minimum Bid Price 788,000.00

LOT 145 - LOT & IMPRVMNT
Lot Area 801 sqm.
Floor Area 297 sqm.
Lot 8423-A-17 Bonifacio St.
Brgy 4, Poblacion
Minimum Bid Price 1,124,000.00

TUMAUINI

LOT 146 - LOT ONLY
Lot Area 900 sqm.
Lots D, E, F Maligaya
Minimum Bid Price 102,000.00

LOT 147 - LOT & IMPRVMNT
Lot Area 200 sqm.
Floor Area 48 sqm
Lot 2219-C, San Pedro
Minimum Bid Price 289,000.00

LOT 148 - LOT ONLY
Lot Area 285 sqm
Lot 1515-A, Lingaling
Minimum Bid Price 122,000.00

LOT 149 - LOT & IMPRVMNT
Lot Area 666 sqm.
Floor Area 126 sqm.
Lot 1, National Rd, San Pedro
Minimum Bid Price 1,253,000.00

LOT 150 - LOT ONLY
Lot Area 900 sqm.
Lot 967-A Maligaya
Minimum Bid Price 192,000.00

LOT 151 - LOT & IMPRVMNT
Lot Area 250 sqm
Floor Area 199 sqm.
Lot 1860-A, Dela Cruz St District II
Minimum Bid Price 618,000.00

LOT 152 - LOT ONLY
Lot Area 249 sqm.
Lot 1860-B, Pascaran District II
Minimum Bid Price 107,000.00

LOT 153 - LOT ONLY
Lot Area 569.5 sqm.
Lot 1597-B District IV
Minimum Bid Price 327,000.00

LOT 154 - LOT & IMPRVMNT
Lot Area 569.5 sqm.
Floor Area 63 sqm.
Lot 1597-A Along Angubong St, District IV
Minimum Bid Price 467,000.00

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Oil prices rise slightly on Russia supply fears

WASHINGTON—Oil prices briefly bolted above $45 a barrel Thursday, then retreated toward $44, in a volatile day of trade after Russian oil giant Yukos said its output could suffer because of a court ruling that froze some of its assets.

The company's comments heightened supply fears that had been raised a day earlier after government and industry data showed a sharp decline in US oil inventories.

After prices jumped as high as $45.37, traders began locking-in profits as analysts voiced skepticism toward the dire picture painted by Yukos Oil Co., which owes the Russian government $3.4 billion in back taxes for 2000.

"We haven't lost a single barrel of oil from Yukos yet," said John Kilduff, senior analyst at Fimat USA in New York.

Light crude for October delivery settled at $44.06, a gain of 6 cents, on the New York Mercantile Exchange. It was the second day in a row that oil prices rose.

Crude futures advanced $1.88 Wednesday after the Energy Department reported that commercial inventories of crude fell by 4.2 million barrels to 287.1 million barrels last week—a surprise to most traders, who expected inventories to be steady or grow slightly.

This latest move higher follows a sharp retreat from the peak Nymex settlement of $48.70 that was reached Aug. 19.

On an inflation-adjusted basis, prices are about $13 below the level reached leading up to the first Gulf War.

Underlying the market's jitters about potential supply disruptions is the fact that there is only a thin margin—perhaps one percent—of spare output capacity worldwide.

Daily global oil demand is roughly 82 million barrels, according to several analysts.

Yukos produces roughly 1.7 million barrels per day—an amount equal to about one-third of Russia's daily exports.

The company has repeatedly said that the government's actions against it have jeopardized output.

While these comments have stoked global supply concerns, most analysts do not believe Russian President Vladimir Putin would allow crude production to drop because oil accounts for much of the country's budget.

Still, when coupled with the sabotage of oil infrastructure in Iraq that sporadically impedes exports, its role as a market force has been magnified.

There were reports out of Iraq on Thursday that saboteurs had detonated explosives on an oil pipeline near the northern city of Kirkuk.

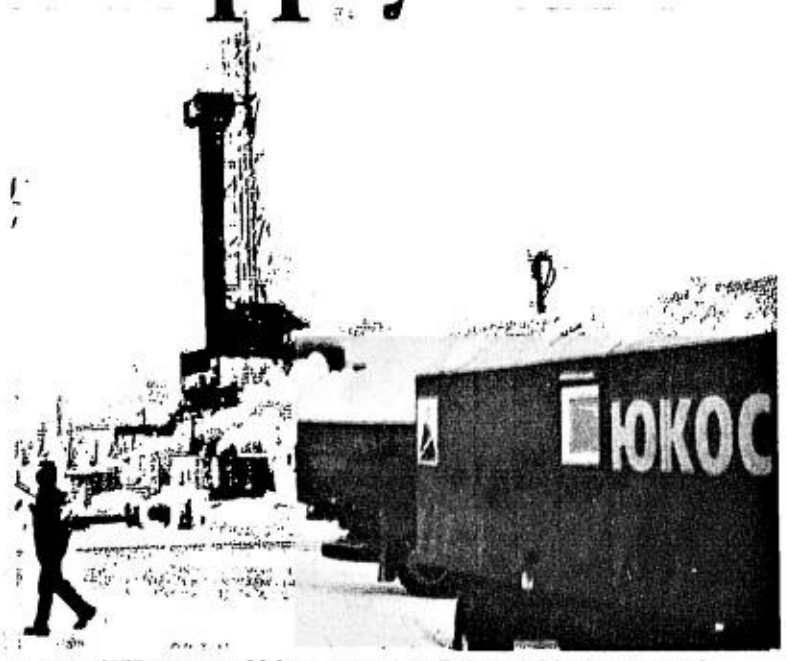
The pipeline links oil fields near Kirkuk with a refinery.

Officials with the state-run North Oil Co. could not be reached for comment.

In London, Brent crude for October delivery rose 10 cents to settle at $41.57 on the International Petroleum Exchange.

In other Nymex trading, heating oil futures rose 0.14 cent to $1.1839 per gallon, while gasoline futures inched 0.42 cent higher to $1.1932 per gallon.

Natural gas for October delivery dropped 19.8 cents to $4.767 per 1,000 cubic feet as traders displayed comfort with current supply levels. *AP*



A WORKER passes a Yukos company oil rig outside the town of Nefteyugansk in Siberia. Trouble at Russia's largest oil producer added to supply concerns. AP

Intel lowers forecast

SAN FRANCISCO—High-tech bellwether Intel Corp. lowered its financial outlook Thursday, providing the latest sign of the economy's doldrums.

The Santa Clara-based computer giant said its third-quarter revenue will range from $8.3 billion to $8.6 billion. Management previously forecast revenue ranging from $8.6 billion to $9.2 billion for the three-month period ending Sept. 25.

Gross profit margins are now expected to be within a couple points of 58 percent, compared with the earlier guidance of 60 percent, plus or minus a couple points.

With recent economic indications pointing to a slowdown, the stock market had been bracing for disappointing news from the world's largest computer chip maker, but Thursday's revised outlook appeared to be gloomier than many investors anticipated.

Intel's shares gained 20 cents to close at $21.63 on the Nasdaq Stock Market before the release of the mid-quarter update, then dropped $1.45 in extended trading.

The sales letdown at Intel doesn't bode well for other tech stocks because the chip maker is frequently used as a financial yardstick for sizing up the industry's prospects. Investors have become increasingly disenchanted with much of the tech sector after a flurry of disappointing second-quarter results.

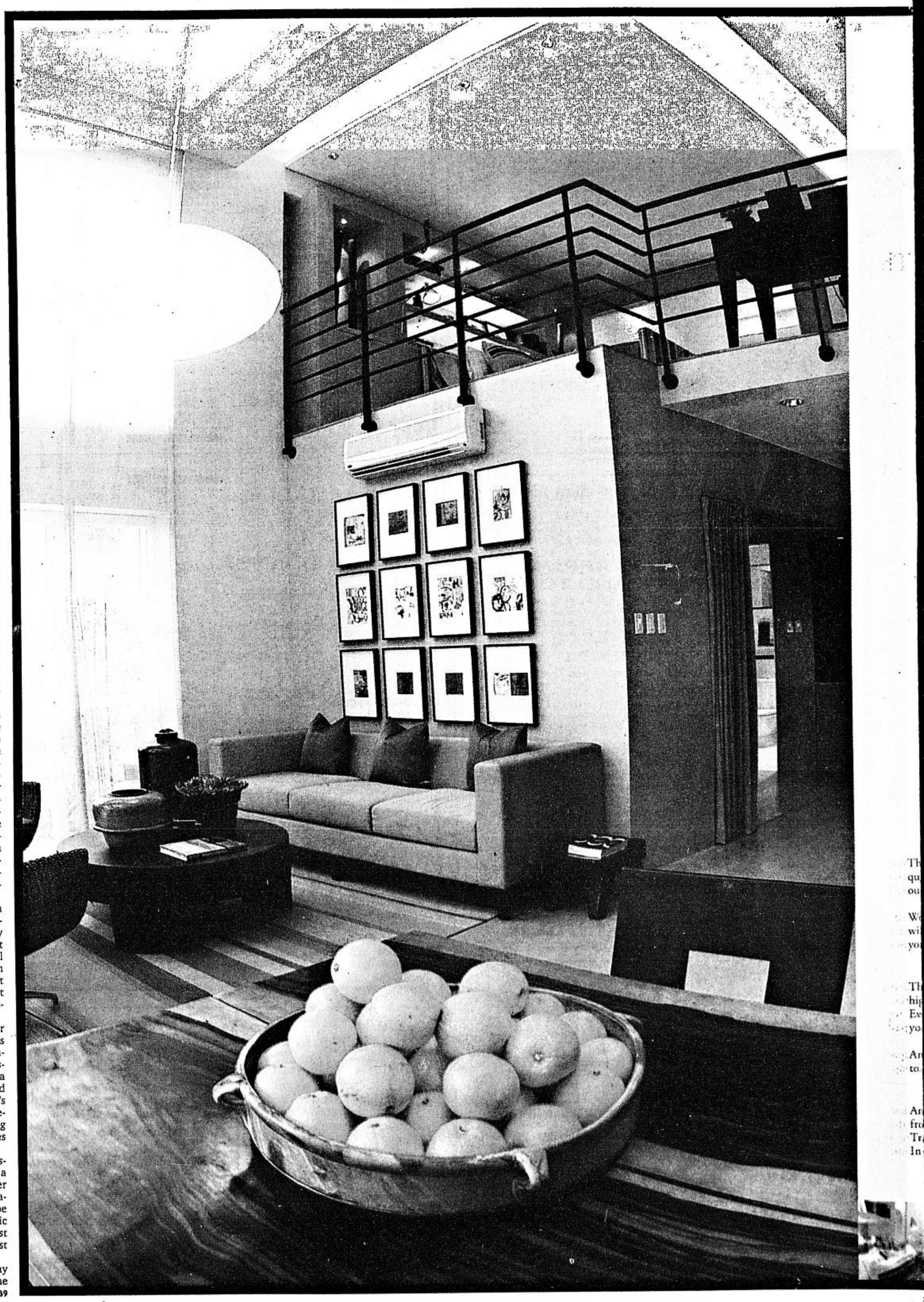
The tech-laden Nasdaq composite index has declined by more than 6 percent so far this year. Intel has fared much worse, having lost one-third of its market value before Thursday's announcement.

Like many other companies, Intel is being hurt by slackening demand from customers. It's a headache that caused many of the nation's largest retailers to release disheartening monthly sales figures on Thursday.

The summer historically heralds a sluggish sales quarter for Intel, but this season seemed to be even more lethargic than usual, said First Albany Corp. analyst Auguste Richard.

The malaise may reflect one of the

INTEL/B9



JOHN Tylor, undersecretary for International Affairs of the US treasury departament, speaks during a press conference at the 11th Apec Finance Ministesr Meeting in Santiago, Chile. AFP

Greater free trade within 21-nation Apec sought

SANTIAGO, Chile—Finance chiefs of the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation group deliberated over calls Thursday to spread free trade across their 21-nation bloc as they opened a two-day summit here.

President Ricardo Lagos, current rotating head of Apec, expressed support for a formal free trade agreement within the vast area comprising some 47 percent of all global commerce.

Influential business lobbies among the Apec nations have backed a call for a region-wide free trade area by 2010.

Although Lagos did not elaborate on what form he thought such an agreement should take, he said "it's worth exploring this possibility."

The call to explore new free trade avenues came as finance ministers and treasuries secretaries from the 21 countries met at a luxury hotel in the Chilean capital.

They are preparing to lay the roadmap for an Apec presidential summit to be held in this South American country in November and likely to be attended by leaders of the United States, Russia and China.

Speaking in English, Lagos told the participants the member countries must also explore new ways to stem rapid capital flight.

Chile has taken its own steps to dissuade capital flight and keep investments in its own burgeoning free market and export-oriented economy.

But Lagos exhorted nations to examine policies regionwide

Apec includes Australia, Brunei, Canada, Chile, China, Hong Kong, Indonesia, Japan, Korea, Malaysia, Mexico, New Zealand, Papua New Guinea, Peru, the Philippines, Russia, Singapore, South Korea, Taiwan, Thailand, the United States and Vietnam.

Together the economies represent more than 2.5 billion people and one of the fast-growing regions of the planet with an estimated annual combined economic output of $19 billion.

Attending the gathering here was Rodrigo de Rato, the new chief of the International Monetary Fund.

The Spaniard, an economist by training, took over the top job at the Washington-based lender three months ago. *AP*

IMF to revise global growth

SANTIAGO—The International Monetary Fund will make a modest upward revision to its global economic growth outlook, managing director Rodrigo Rato said Tuesday.

Rato, who was attending the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation forum meeting of finance ministers, said the IMF global outlook for 2004 set to be released in October would be "slightly above" the April forecast of 4.6 percent.

Rato noted however that "some downside risks have increased" including the recent spike in crude oil prices.

But he said that even though some recent economic data have been below expectations, "the recover should continue in 2004 and through 2005."

Rato repeated IMF concerns about the United States and Europe.

He said US officials should take steps to address the "twin deficits," referring to the budget gap and massive trade imbalance.

As for Europe, he said officials "should not make the same mistake as in 1999, when they were unable to take advantage of the recovery to put their public finances in order." *AFP*

Intel . .

From page B8

problems that plagued retailers—a lackluster back-to-school shopping season. Intel relies on the beginning of the year to spark sales of computers.

But consumers don't seem as eager to buy computers, particularly the most sophisticated desktop models, said Moors & Cabot Inc. analyst Patrick Ho, who believes higher gas prices are one of the factors hurting Intel.

"When many consumers are paying 20 cents per gallon more for gasoline, it starts to add up and they begin to wonder if they need to spend an extra $800 to $1,000 on a computer," Ho said.

Even though Intel's second-quarter profits nearly doubled, this hasn't been a banner year for the chip maker. *AP*

There's plenty of headroom even for a human skyscraper.

Bulgarian Giant
Assen Ivanov Giorgiev, who weighs 256 kilos and 9.19 feet in height, poses next to a car too small for him.

And nobody else has this but us.

Vertical clearance: 20 ft. high
e world's tallest man is listed as more than 9 ft. tall—a physical marvel that's ite common for the Watusis of Africa. Impressive as it may seem, we didn't design t lofts for very tall people.

made our lofts literally lofty for you to have limitless room for ideas on how you l do your own interiors. Being bare, each loft will become your statement—ur own huge canvas.

Creativity can't be boxed.
is is your only chance to unleash the repressed artist in you. No other hrise has lofts that can give you as much freedom for self-expression. ery room, every alcove, every nook and cranny can be your mural, ur pastiche, your tryptiche or your atelier.

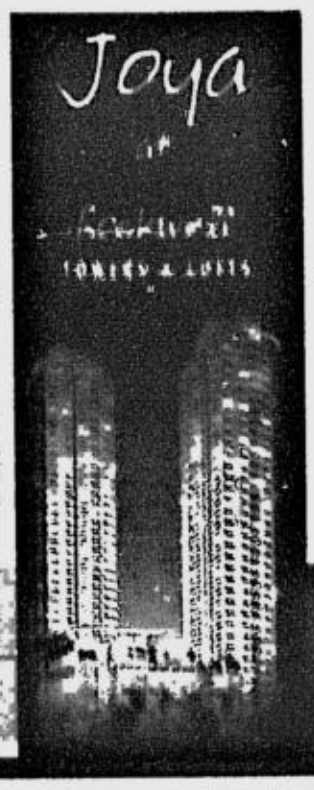
d space is abundant for productive minds. There's nothing here cramp your style. And your changing moods.

Creativity must be nurtured.
d that's why we take care of the headaches. We give you a departure m the standard Burbs. Rockwell is a little city that's contained. affic is not sanctioned here. Security runs 24-hours daily. a time of anxiety attacks, that's one less worry.

Despite the peace, we rock. There is always something a-buzz like surprising structures that change the skyline every now and then. Not to mention bargain haunts as well as designer shops, traditional and quirky buys, mainstream and transitional events plus a global choice of restaurants and bars for a diverse lifestyle.

The muses rule here.
The choice is yours—from 1 to 2 bedroom units for the lofts. Or look into our towers' yin-yang interiors, hardwood floors, ventilated kitchens, floor to ceiling windows and walk-in closets. (Fashionistas, dress yourselves to the nines. In sixes and sevens too.)

Forty-six floors up, you can detox in our skylounge or "The Wind". At the garden encased gym, 3 badminton courts, organic spa, children's playground, sundecks, roof gardens and 25-meter swimming pool, you can burn fat or angst. And be phat!



No reason for you to "hit the roof".
Even parking is abundant—5 levels of secured space. With all these going for you, you can live your dreams and never fear that the sky will drop on your head.

Even if you are a Watusi.

Joya Lofts and Tower Units
Only for the chosen few and only a few left.
To inquire, please call 890-6888/ 756-5022 or fax 896-2251 or drop by at the Rockwell Information Center, Rockwell Drive, cor. Estrella St., Makati. Visit our model unit at the Power Plant Mall. With easy payment terms and up to 4 years to pay, available units are running out fast.

PHILIPPINE HEART CENTER

East Avenue, Quezon City
is now accepting applications for
Academic Year 2005

FELLOWSHIP (with specific requirements)

I. Pediatric Cardiology
- 3 years Residency in General Pediatric accredited by PPS
- at least passed written examination for Diplomate in Pediatrics by the PPS

II. Thoracic and Cardiovascular Surgery
- 5 years Residency in General Surgery accredited by PCS
- must have passed certifying examination given by the PBS (Board eligible/Diplomate)
- at least qualified to take PBS certifying examination and the submission of satisfactory results of the in-service training examinations

III. Anesthesiology
- 3 years Residency in General Anesthesia accredited by PBA (Board eligible)
- pre-fellowship (except for graduates of the Philippine Heart Center Anesthesia Residency Program)

RESIDENCY (QUERT not required) fill-up application at DOH for matching (for Medical Board Passers)

I. Radiology
II. Nuclear Medicine
III. Biological and Clinical Laboratory (Pathology)

** Deadline for submission of application is on September 15, 2004*
** Academic Year 2005 starts on January 1, 2005*

General Requirements for Application for Fellowship & Residency:

1. Medical Diploma
2. Transcript of Records with the Weighted General Average
3. Itemized Board Rating
4. Three (3) Letters of Recommendation (coming from different Doctors specifically the Training Officer &/or Director of the previous training programs)
5. Four (4) pcs. 2"x2" picture colored
6. Certificate of Residency in required specialty
7. Specialty Board Certificate in required specialty

Please address your communications to:

JOSE A. YULDE, M.D.
Assistant Director
Office of Education and Research
Philippine Heart Center
East Avenue, Quezon City

For further inquiries, please contact Ms. Carmela M. Ocasion (cp# 0919-2885303) or Ms. Cleopatra Q. Palencia (cp# 0916-3021735) with Tel. Nos. 925-2401 locals 3234, 3235, 3236 & 3237 and Telefax 926-9622, or you can email to oer@phc.gov.ph

Wanted Civil Engineers

OSK Architects & Engineers based in Okinawa Japan is in need of two (2) licensed Civil Engineer

- with at least 5 years working experience to work overseas
- all aspects of Civil Engineering design work
- knowledge in U.S. Military Design Criteria
- skill in AutoCAD and other design softwares are preferred
- need to be BSCE graduate who belong to top 10% of the graduating class

* Starting monthly salary is JPY 250,000 to 400,000 (PHP 125,000 to 200,000) plus housing allowance with round trip economy ticket from Okinawa to Manila every year with 20 days paid vacation.

E-mail bio data with pictures,employment certificate and scanned transcript to osk@mvb.biglobe.ne.jp or juntumala@mbf.ocn.ne.jp Attention: Jun Tumala

or Fax at (8198)935-5974. Employer will be in Makati end of September to interview qualifying applicants.

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70+ year history of excellence in education
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G.G. Program starts November 1, 2004
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giathai@ksc.th.com www.giathailand.com

ASSET MANAGEMENT GROUP — PNB

We manage for best value. www.pnb.com.ph

PUBLIC AUCTION

PANGASINAN PROPERTIES

SEPTEMBER 17, 2004 • FRIDAY • 2:00 p.m.
PANGASINAN REGENCY HOTEL
2nd Floor Green Acres
Judge Jose De Venecia, Sr. Avenue, Nalsian
Calasiao, Pangasinan

DAGUPAN CITY

LOT 1 - LOT ONLY
Lot Area: 236 sqm.
Lot 24-B-29 Brgy. Lasip.Grande
Minimum Bid Price: 54,000.00

LOT 2 - LOT ONLY
Lot Area: 222 sqm.
Lot 24-B-32 Brgy. Lasip. Grande
Minimum Bid Price: 57,000.00

LOT 3 - LOT ONLY
Lot Area: 239 sqm.
Lot 4 Blk. 1 Bonuan Boquig
Minimum Bid Price: 96,000.00

LOT 4 - LOT ONLY
Lot Area: 239 sqm.
Lot 5 Blk 1 Bonuan, Boquig
Minimum Bid Price: 96,000.00

LOT 5 - LOT ONLY
Lot Area: 424 sqm.
Lot 5560-A Interior, Malued District
Minimum Bid Price: 181,000.00

LOT 6 - LOT ONLY
Lot Area. 750 sqm.
Lot 4 Tambac District
Minimum Bid Price: 1,148,000.00

LOT 7 - LOT & IMPRVMNT
Lot Area: 343 sqm.
Floor Area. 61 sqm.
Lot 4807 Lucao District
Minimum Bid Price: 427,000.00

LOT 8 - LOT ONLY
Lot Area: 292 sqm.
Lot 6354-C Lasio Grande
Minimum Bid Price: 501,000.00

LOT 9 - LOT ONLY
Lot Area. 403 sqm.
Lot 2-K Bonuan Boquig
Minimum Bid Price: 515,000.00

LOT 10 - LOT ONLY
Lot Area: 2,860 sqm.
Lot 7764 Interior,Bonuan Boquig
Minimum Bid Price: 801,000.00

LOT 11 - LOT ONLY
Lot Area: 2,000 sqm.
Lot 7266-B Sta Maria St., Bonuan Boquig
Minimum Bid Price: 825,000.00

LOT 12 - LOT ONLY
Lot Area: 1,029 sqm.
Lot 7557-A-3 San Gabriel St. Bonuan Boquig
Minimum Bid Price: 834,000.00

LOT 13 - LOT ONLY
Lot Area: 1,028 sqm.
Lot 7557-A-4-A San Gabriel St. Bonuan Boquig
Minimum Bid Price: 834,000.00

LOT 14 - LOT ONLY
Lot Area: 1,028 sqm.
Lot 7557-A-4-C San Gabriel St. Bonuan Boquig
Minimum Bid Price: 834,000.00

LOT 15 - LOT ONLY
Lot Area: 1,029 sqm.
Lot 7557-A-1 San Gabriel St., Bonuan Boquig
Minimum Bid Price: 834,000.00

LOT 16 - LOT ONLY
Lot Area: 1,028 sqm.
Lot 7557-A-2 San Gabriel St. Bonuan Boquig
Minimum Bid Price: 834,000.00

LOT 17 - LOT ONLY
Lot Area: 1,029 sqm.
Lot 7557-A-4-B San Gabriel St. Bonuan Boquig
Minimum Bid Price: 834,000.00

LOT 18 - LOT ONLY
Lot Area: 1,796 sqm.
Lot 2-D Melendez St, Bonuan Boquig
Minimum Bid Price: 1,258,000.00

LOT 19 - LOT & IMPRVMNT
Lot Area. 412 sqm.
Floor Area. 138 sqm.
Lot 2-E, Lot 2-B, Lot 2-C, Lot 2-B Burgos-Guilig
Minimum Bid Price: 1,040,000.00

LOT 20 - LOT & IMPRVMNT
Lot Area: 413 sqm.
Floor Area. 78 sqm.
Lot 4381-B Interior, Tapuac District
Minimum Bid Price: 1,157,000.00

LOT 21 - LOT ONLY
Lot Area: 586 sqm.
Lot 3811-C Interior, Careenan
Minimum Bid Price: 1,495,000.00

LOT 22 - LOT ONLY
Lot Area: 1,034 sqm.
Lot 3847-A Interior Amado-Tapuac
Minimum Bid Price: 1,629,000.00

LOT 23 - LOT ONLY
Lot Area: 3,879 sqm.
Lot 4590 Tapuac Dist.
Minimum Bid Price: 4,170,000.00

LOT 24 - LOT ONLY
Lot Area: 1,212 sqm.
Lot 4, Lot 3, Lot 2, Lot 1, Lot 6 Pogo Chico
Minimum Bid Price: 1,811,000.00

BASISTA

LOT 25 - LOT ONLY
Lot Area: 1,601 sqm.
Lot 16403-B Dumpay
Minimum Bid Price: 953,000.00

LOT 26 - LOT ONLY
Lot Area: 6,239 sqm.
Lot No. 16106, Lot No. 16107, & Lot 16108 Brgy Dumpay
Minimum Bid Price: 222,000.00

CALASIAO

LOT 27 - LOT & IMPRVMNT
Lot Area: 174 sqm.
Floor Area: 68 sqm.
Lot 4390 Talibaew
Minimum Bid Price: 100,000.00

LOT 28 - LOT & IMPRVMNT
Lot Area: 495 sqm.
Floor Area: 218.5 sqm.
Lot 6847 Malabago
Minimum Bid Price: 992,000.00

LOT 29 - LOT & IMPRVMNT
Lot Area. 509.66 sqm.
Floor Area: 116 sqm.
Lot 2-G Doyong
Minimum Bid Price: 430,000.00

LOT 30 - LOT ONLY
Lot Area: 1,362 sqm.
Lot 8101-B Brgy. Macabito
Minimum Bid Price: 503,000.00

LOT 31 - LOT & IMPRVMNT
Lot Area: 1,757 sqm.
Floor Area: 166 sqm.
Lot 7106 Longos
Minimum Bid Price: 1,066,000.00

LOT 32 - LOT & IMPRVMNT
Lot Area: 560 sqm.
Floor Area: 96 sqm.
Lot 5956 Brgy. Buenlag
Minimum Bid Price: 513,000.00

LOT 33 - LOT & IMPRVMNT
Lot Area: 2,008 sqm.
Floor Area: 118 sqm.
Lot 5 Brgy. Malabago
Minimum Bid Price: 720,000.00

LOT 34 - LOT & IMPRVMNT
Lot Area: 369 sqm.
Floor Area: 80 sqm.
Lot 7391-B Longos
Minimum Bid Price: 158,000.00

LOT 35 - LOT & IMPRVMNT
Lot Area: 324.55 sqm.
Floor Area: 228 sqm.
Lot 1-16001 San Miguel
Minimum Bid Price: 945,000.00

LOT 36 - LOT ONLY
Lot Area: 483 sqm.
L1358 Int. Mac Arthur Highway San Miguel
Minimum Bid Price: 719,000.00

LOT 37 - LOT ONLY
Lot Area: 792 sqm.
Lot 621-A-Lot 16039 Brgy. Nalsian
Minimum Bid Price: 728,000.00

LOT 38 - LOT & IMPRVMNT
Lot Area: 467 sqm.
Floor Area: 90 sqm.
Lot 6729 Mancup
Minimum Bid Price: 340,000.00

LOT 39 - LOT & IMPRVMNT
Lot Area: 228 sqm.
Floor Area: 92 sqm.
Lot 15817-A San Miguel
Minimum Bid Price: 900,000.00

LOT 40 - LOT & IMPRVMNT
Lot Area: 1,992 sqm.
Floor Area: 207 sqm.
L16692 Brgy. Macabito Along Prov'l Rd.
Minimum Bid Price: 1,444,000.00

LOT 41 - LOT & IMPRVMNT
Lot Area: 503 sqm.
Floor Area: 141 sqm.
Lot 13346 Mancup
Minimum Bid Price: 995,000.00

LOT 42 - LOT & IMPRVMNT
Lot Area: 713 sqm.
Floor Area: 192 sqm.
Lot 2942 Bued
Minimum Bid Price: 1,164,000.00

LOT 43 - LOT & IMPRVMNT
Lot Area: 235 sqm.
Floor Area: 111 sqm.
Lot 2941, Lot 2943 & Lot 2945 Brgy Bued
Minimum Bid Price: 129,000.00

LOT 44 - LOT ONLY
Lot Area: 525 sqm.
Lot 2731 Brgy Bued.
Minimum Bid Price: 545,000.00

LOT 45 - LOT & IMPRVMNT
Lot Area: 554 sqm.
Floor Area: 175 sqm.
Lot 8769-A Brgy. Buenlag
Minimum Bid Price: 808,000.00

LOT 46 - LOT & IMPRVMNT
Lot Area: 901 sqm.
Floor Area: 150 sqm.
Lot 199-B Nalsian
Minimum Bid Price: 1,461,000.00

LOT 47 - LOT & IMPRVMNT
Lot Area: 222 sqm.
Floor Area: 68 sqm.
Lot 6469 Mancup
Minimum Bid Price: 308,000.00

LOT 48 - LOT & IMPRVMNT
Lot Area: 74 sqm.
Floor Area: 81 sqm.
Lot 6915 Mancup
Minimum Bid Price: 502,000.00

LOT 49 - LOT & IMPRVMNT
Lot Area: 447 sqm.
Floor Area: 91 sqm.
Lot 4038-B & Lot 4038-D Sitio Pandayan, Gabon
Minimum Bid Price: 297,000.00

LOT 50 - LOT ONLY
Lot Area: 3390 sqm.
Lot 8101-A Brgy. Macabito
Minimum Bid Price: 1,186,000.00

LOT 51 - LOT ONLY
Lot Area: 2,998 sqm.
Lot 8101-C Brgy Macabito
Minimum Bid Price: 1,080,000.00

MALASIQUI

LOT 52 - LOT & IMPRVMNT
Lot Area: 761 sqm.
Floor Area: 50 sqm.
Lot 1953-A-1 Cabaling
Minimum Bid Price: 224,000.00

LOT 53 - LOT ONLY
Lot Area: 215 sqm.
Lot 735-B-3 Poblacion
Minimum Bid Price: 174,000.00

LOT 54 - LOT & IMPRVMNT
Lot Area: 719 sqm.
Floor Area: 89 sqm.
Lot 5314-B Nalsian Sur,
Minimum Bid Price: 739,000.00

LOT 55 - LOT & IMPRVMNT
Lot Area: 617 sqm.
Floor Area: 72 sqm.
Lot 8979-C Loqueb Este
Minimum Bid Price: 170,000.00

LOT 56 - LOT & IMPRVMNT
Lot Area. 785 sqm.
Floor Area: 105 sqm.
Lot 10935-E Brgy Balite
Minimum Bid Price: 338,000.00

LOT 57 - LOT & IMPRVMNT
Lot Area: 2,628 sqm.
Floor Area: 135 sqm.
Lot 5393 Tomling
Minimum Bid Price: 907,000.00

LOT 58 - LOT ONLY
Lot Area: 3,957.33 sqm.
Lot 6509-B-6-C & Lot 6509-B-6-E Brgy. Bawer
Minimum Bid Price: 256,000.00

LOT 59 - LOT & IMPRVMNT
Lot Area: 2,305 sqm.
Floor Area: 45 sqm.
Lot 3-A-2 Goliman
Minimum Bid Price: 208,000.00

LOT 60 - LOT & IMPRVMNT
Lot Area: 3,206 sqm.
Floor Area: 126 sqm.
Lot 430 Rizal St., Poblacion
Minimum Bid Price: 2,531,000.00

LOT 61 - LOT ONLY
Lot Area: 4,302 sqm.
Lot 2462-C Cabeldatan
Minimum Bid Price: 335,000.00

LOT 62 - LOT ONLY
Lot Area: 1331 sqm.
Lot 8824-L Lokeb Norte
Minimum Bid Price: 170,000.00

LOT 63 - LOT & IMPRVMNT
Lot Area: 505.5 sqm.
Floor Area: 138 sqm.
Lot 2946-A Poblacion
Minimum Bid Price: 582,000.00

LOT 64 - LOT & IMPRVMNT
Lot Area: 187 sqm.
Floor Area: 74 sqm.
Lot 730-F Poblacion(Diego Sifang St.)
Minimum Bid Price: 300,000.00

LOT 65 - LOT & IMPRVMNT
Lot Area: 751 sqm.
Floor Area: 143 sqm.
Lot 14 (Quintas St.) Poblacion
Minimum Bid Price: 1,380,000.00

LOT 66 - LOT & IMPRVMNT
Lot Area: 633 sqm.
Floor Area: 150 sqm.
Lot 8232-B Tabo-Sili
Minimum Bid Price: 521,000.00

LOT 67 - LOT ONLY
Lot Area: 5,120 sqm.
Lot 4643 Banawang
Minimum Bid Price: 1,657,000.00

LOT 68 - LOT ONLY
Lot Area: 12,651 sqm.
Lot 5599 Palong
Minimum Bid Price: 709,000.00

LOT 69 - LOT ONLY
Lot Area: 1,625.5 sqm.
Lot 30643-B Taloy
Minimum Bid Price: 383,000.00

LOT 70 - LOT & IMPRVMNT
Lot Area: 387 sqm.
Floor Area: 211 sqm.
Lot 8505-C Lokeb (Norte)
Minimum Bid Price: 377,000.00

LOT 71 - LOT & IMPRVMNT
Lot Area: 2274 sqm.
Floor Area: 57 sqm.
Lot 6862-B Lokeb (Este)
Minimum Bid Price: 395,000.00

LOT 72 - LOT & IMPRVMNT
Lot Area: 1,056.5 sqm.
Floor Area: 80 sqm.
Lot 6395-A San Julian
Minimum Bid Price: 282,000.00

LOT 73 - LOT ONLY
Lot Area. 701 sqm.
Lot 1506-F Lokeb(Norte)
Minimum Bid Price: 79,000.00

LOT 74 - LOT & IMPRVMNT
Lot Area: 360 sqm.
Floor Area: 144 sqm.
L5 & L11 (Gen. Aguinaldo St.) Poblacion
Minimum Bid Price: 882,000.00

LOT 75 - LOT & IMPRVMNT
Lot Area: 8,500 sqm.
Floor Area: 56 sqm.
Lot 1-A Bacundao (West)
Minimum Bid Price: 557,000.00

LOT 76 - LOT ONLY
Lot Area: 2697 sqm.
Lot 2-A San Julian
Minimum Bid Price: 448,000.00

LOT 77 - LOT ONLY
Lot Area: 2,173 sqm.
Lot 3-G Cabeldatan
Minimum Bid Price: 250,000.00

LOT 78 - LOT ONLY
Lot Area: 3,021 sqm.
Lot 3-D Cabeldatan
Minimum Bid Price: 256,000.00

LOT 79 - LOT ONLY
Lot Area: 13,361 sqm.
Lot 2 Cabeldatan
Minimum Bid Price: 468,000.00

LOT 80 - LOT & IMPRVMNT
Lot Area: 3,364 sqm.
Floor Area: 108 sqm.
Lot 2 Cabeldatan
Minimum Bid Price: 579,000.00

LOT 81 - LOT ONLY
Lot Area: 19,523 sqm.
L B-16-B & L B-16-S-1 Brgy. Canan Norte
Minimum Bid Price: 1,336,000.00

LOT 82 - LOT & IMPRVMNT
Lot Area: 1,160 sqm.
Floor Area: 40 sqm.
Lot 2-E Palapar (Sur)
Minimum Bid Price: 114,000.00

LOT 83 - LOT ONLY
Lot Area: 1,872 sqm.
Lot 11045-C Bacundao (West)
Minimum Bid Price: 261,000.00

LOT 84 - LOT ONLY
Lot Area: 4,112 sqm.
Lot 14514-E Barang (& Belawit).
Minimum Bid Price: 656,000.00

LOT 85 - LOT & IMPRVMNT
Lot Area: 930 sqm.
Floor Area: 95 sqm.
Lot 7526-A Tatospatang
Minimum Bid Price: 425,000.00

LOT 86 - LOT & IMPRVMNT
Lot Area: 2,451 sqm.
Floor Area: 45 sqm.
Lot 8969-B Lokeb (Este)
Minimum Bid Price: 384,000.00

LOT 87 - LOT & IMPRVMNT
Lot Area: 967 sqm.
Floor Area: 68 sqm.
Lot 8969-A Lokeb (Este)
Minimum Bid Price: 289,000.00

LOT 88 - LOT & IMPRVMNT
Lot Area: 555 sqm.
Floor Area: 117 sqm.
Lot 14514-D-1 Barang/Bolaoit
Minimum Bid Price: 334,000.00

LOT 89 - LOT ONLY
Lot Area: 3,698 sqm.
Lot 7561-C & Lot 7561-B Talospatang
Minimum Bid Price: 141,000.00

LOT 90 - LOT & IMPRVMNT
Lot Area: 660.8 sqm.
Floor Area: 50 sqm.
Lot 551-D Taloy
Minimum Bid Price: 477,000.00

LOT 91 - LOT & IMPRVMNT
Lot Area: 1,810 sqm.
Floor Area: 198 sqm.
Lot 6387 San Julian
Minimum Bid Price: 543,000.00

LOT 92 - LOT ONLY
Lot Area: 2,064 sqm.
Lot 6388 San Julian
Minimum Bid Price: 544,000.00

MANGALDAN

LOT 93 - LOT ONLY
Lot Area: 198 sqm.
Lot 6 Blk. 5 Honeyland Subd., Tebag
Minimum Bid Price: 189,000.00

LOT 94 - LOT ONLY
Lot Area: 216 sqm.
Lot 14 Blk. 5 Honeyland Subd., Tebag
Minimum Bid Price: 206,000.00

LOT 95 - LOT ONLY
Lot Area: 197 sqm.
Lot 2 Blk. 5 Honeyland Subd., Tebag
Minimum Bid Price: 188,000.00

LOT 96 - LOT ONLY
Lot Area: 198 sqm.
Lot 4 Blk. 5 Honeyland Subd., Tebag
Minimum Bid Price: 189,000.00

LOT 97 - LOT ONLY
Lot Area: 198 sqm.
Lot 8 Blk. 5 Honeyland Subd., Tebag
Minimum Bid Price: 189,000.00

LOT 98 - LOT ONLY
Lot Area: 198 sqm.
Lot 10 Blk. 5 Honeyland Subd.,Tebag
Minimum Bid Price: 189,000.00

LOT 99 - LOT ONLY
Lot Area. 159 sqm.
Lot 12 Blk. 5 Honeyland Subd., Tebag
Minimum Bid Price: 152,000.00

LOT 100 - LOT ONLY
Lot Area: 3,022 sqm.
Lot 3-E-8-H-1 Apostol Subd., Guiguilonen
Minimum Bid Price: 1,358,000.00

LOT 101 - LOT ONLY
Lot Area: 389 sqm.
Lot 3-E-8-H-3-D-5-B-3 Apostol Subd., Guiguilonen
Minimum Bid Price: 298,000.00

LOT 102 - LOT ONLY
Lot Area: 252 sqm.
Lot 29 & 28 Bo. Banaoang
Minimum Bid Price: 177,000.00

LOT 103 - LOT ONLY
Lot Area: 132 sqm.
Lot No. 27 Bo. Banaoang
Minimum Bid Price: 93,000.00

LOT 104 - LOT ONLY
Lot Area: 80 sqm.
Lot 12 Blk. 7 Honeyland Subd.,Tebag
Minimum Bid Price: 76,000.00

LOT 105 - LOT ONLY
Lot Area: 96 sqm.
Lot 11 Blk 7 Honeyland Subd., Tebag
Minimum Bid Price: 92,000.00

LOT 106 - LOT ONLY
Lot Area. 90 sqm.
Lot 10 Blk. 7 Honeyland Subd., Tebag
Minimum Bid Price: 86,000.00

LOT 107 - LOT ONLY
Lot Area. 90 sqm.
Lot 8 Blk. 7 Honeyland Subd., Tebag
Minimum Bid Price: 86,000.00

LOT 108 - LOT ONLY
Lot Area. 90 sqm.
Lot 6 Blk. 7 Honeyland Subd., Tebag
Minimum Bid Price: 86,000.00

LOT 109 - LOT ONLY
Lot Area: 90 sqm.
Lot 5 Blk. 7 Honeyland Subd., Tebag
Minimum Bid Price: 86,000.00

LOT 110 - LOT ONLY
Lot Area: 90 sqm.
Lot 4 Blk. 7 Honeyland Subd. Tebag
Minimum Bid Price: 86,000.00

LOT 111 - LOT ONLY
Lot Area: 90 sqm.
Lot 3 Blk. 7 Honeyland Subd., Tebag
Minimum Bid Price: 86,000.00

LOT 112 - LOT ONLY
Lot Area: 70 sqm.
Lot 2 Blk. 7 Honeyland Subd., Tebag
Minimum Bid Price: 67,000.00

LOT 113 - LOT ONLY
Lot Area: 83 sqm.
Lot 1 Blk. 7 Honeyland Subd., Tebag
Minimum Bid Price: 79,000.00

LOT 114 - LOT ONLY
Lot Area: 898 sqm.
Lot 7 Bari
Minimum Bid Price: 802,000.00

LOT 115 - LOT ONLY
Lot Area: 287 sqm.
Lot 6 Blk. 4 Honeyland Subd. Tebag
Minimum Bid Price: 273,000.00

LOT 116 - LOT ONLY
Lot Area. 200 sqm.
Lot 3 Blk. 1 Honeyland Subd., Tebag Mangaldan,Pangasinan
Minimum Bid Price: 190,000.00

LOT 117 - LOT ONLY
Lot Area: 200 sqm.
Lot 5 Blk. 4 Honeyland Subd., Tebag
Minimum Bid Price: 190,000.00

LOT 118 - LOT ONLY
Lot Area: 471 sqm.
Bo. Banaoang
Minimum Bid Price: 211,000.00

LOT 119 - LOT ONLY
Lot Area: 132 sqm.
Lot 9 Bo. Banaoang
Minimum Bid Price: 85,000.00

LOT 120 - LOT ONLY
Lot Area: 132 sqm.
Lot 10 Bo. Banaoang
Minimum Bid Price: 85,000.00

LOT 121 - LOT ONLY
Lot Area: 701 sqm.
Bo. Banaoang
Minimum Bid Price: 313,000.00

LOT 122 - LOT ONLY
Lot Area: 130 sqm.
Lot 8 Bo. Banaoang
Minimum Bid Price: 83,000.00

LOT 123 - LOT ONLY
Lot Area: 606 sqm.
L 3,4,5 Blk. 2 Honeyland Subd., Tebag
Minimum Bid Price: 516,000.00

POZZORUBIO

LOT 124 - LOT ONLY
Lot Area: 2649 sqm.
Lot 7 Brgy. Dila
Minimum Bid Price: 497,000.00

ROSALES

LOT 125 - LOT ONLY
Lot Area. 258 sqm.
Lot 2-A-7-A-2 Carmen
Minimum Bid Price: 922,000.00

LOT 126 - LOT ONLY
Lot Area: 258 sqm.
Lot 2-A-7-A-3 Carmen
Minimum Bid Price: 922,000.00

LOT 127 - LOT ONLY
Lot Area: 258 sqm.
Lot 2-A-7-A-4 Carmen
Minimum Bid Price: 922,000.00

LOT 128 - LOT ONLY
Lot Area: 258 sqm.
Lot 2-A-7-A-5 Carmen
Minimum Bid Price: 922,000.00

LOT 129 - LOT ONLY
Lot Area: 801 sqm.
Lot 2-A-1 Carmen(West)
Minimum Bid Price: 749,000.00

LOT 130 - LOT ONLY
Lot Area: 235 sqm.
Lot 121-E-6 Tomana (West)
Minimum Bid Price: 40,000.00

LOT 131 - LOT ONLY
Lot Area: 300 sqm.
Lot 2048-I-2 San Pedro(East)
Minimum Bid Price: 77,000.00

SAN CARLOS CITY

LOT 132 - LOT ONLY
Lot Area. 1,260 sqm.
L2533-B Poblacion, Antonio Luna St.
Minimum Bid Price: 486,000.00

LOT 133 - LOT ONLY
Lot Area: 1,260 sqm.
Lot 2533-F Poblacion,Antonio Luna St.
Minimum Bid Price: 486,000.00

LOT 134 - LOT ONLY
Lot Area: 408 sqm.
Lot No. 1158-B-1-B Interior, Padilla St.
Minimum Bid Price: 230,000.00

LOT 135 - LOT ONLY
Lot Area: 5,189 sqm.
Lot 13861-B Turac
Minimum Bid Price: 273,000.00

LOT 136 - LOT ONLY
Lot Area: 676 sqm.
Lot 5571-B-1 Brgy. Cruz
Minimum Bid Price: 229,000.00

LOT 137 - LOT ONLY
Lot Area: 1,570 sqm.
Lot 24242-A Bogaoan
Minimum Bid Price: 223,000.00

LOT 138 - LOT ONLY
Lot Area: 1,570 sqm.
Lot 24242-B Bogaoan
Minimum Bid Price: 223,000.00

LOT 139 - LOT & IMPRVMNT
Lot Area: 1,486 sqm.
Floor Area: 252 sqm.
Lot 9763 Brgy. Sapinit
Minimum Bid Price: 1,359,000.00

SAN FABIAN

LOT 140 - LOT & IMPRVMNT
Lot Area: 508 sqm.
Floor Area: 50 sqm.
Lot 86-B-1 Brgy. Mabilao
Minimum Bid Price: 102,000.00

SAN QUINTIN

LOT 141 - LOT ONLY
Lot Area: 300 sqm.
Lot 6 Blk 3 Nangapugan
Minimum Bid Price: 31,000.00

LOT 142 - LOT & IMPRVMNT
Lot Area: 431 sqm.
Floor Area: 42 sqm.
Lot 6 Blk 4 Nangapugan
Minimum Bid Price: 56,000.00

LOT 143 - LOT ONLY
Lot Area: 308 sqm.
Lot 6 Blk 9 Nangapugan
Minimum Bid Price: 32,000.00

LOT 144 - LOT ONLY
Lot Area: 300 sqm.
Lot 12 Blk. 3 Nangapugan
Minimum Bid Price: 31,000.00

LOT 145 - LOT ONLY
Lot Area: 300 sqm.
Lot 11 Blk 3 Nangapugan
Minimum Bid Price: 31,000.00

LOT 146 - LOT ONLY
Lot Area: 314 sqm.
Lot 18 Blk. Nangapugan
Minimum Bid Price: 33,000.00

STA. BARBARA

LOT 147 - LOT ONLY
Lot Area: 247.5 sqm.
Lot 3 Brgy. Banaoang
Minimum Bid Price: 884,000.00

LOT 148 - LOT ONLY
Lot Area: 286.10 sqm.
Lot 4-B Brgy. Banaoang
Minimum Bid Price: 103,000.00

LOT 149 - LOT ONLY
Lot Area: 7,004 sqm.
Lot No. 9125 Gueguesangen
Minimum Bid Price: 1,314,000.00

STO. TOMAS

LOT 150 - LOT & IMPRVMNT
Lot Area: 1,340 sqm.
Floor Area: 200 sqm.
L 3-B-4-K, L 3-B-1 & L 3-B-2 San Antonio
Minimum Bid Price: 1,893,000.00

UMINGAN

LOT 151 - LOT ONLY
Lot Area: 498 sqm.
Lot 5639-Kk Prado(Concepcion)
Minimum Bid Price: 25,000.00

LOT 152 - LOT ONLY
Lot Area: 408 sqm.
Lot 7 Blk. 7 Prado(Luna Este)
Minimum Bid Price: 18,000.00

LOT 153 - LOT ONLY
Lot Area: 475 sqm.
Lot 5639-XX Luna Este
Minimum Bid Price: 29,000.00

LOT 154 - LOT ONLY
Lot Area: 1,160 sqm.
Lot 5639-Zz Luna Este
Minimum Bid Price: 70,000.00

LOT 155 - LOT ONLY
Lot Area: 1,957 sqm.
Lot 1 Blk. 8, Lot 2 Blk. 8, Lot 3 Blk. 8, Lot 4 B 8 & L5 B8 Luna Este
Minimum Bid Price: 70,000.00

LOT 156 - LOT ONLY
Lot Area: 1,160 sqm.
Lot 5639-Oo (Prado)(Con.)Luna Este
Minimum Bid Price: 70,000.00

LOT 157 - LOT ONLY
Lot Area: 1,791 sqm.
Lot 5639-Bbb-6, Lot 5639-Bbb-7 Lot 5639-Bbb-8,& Lot 5639-Bbb-9 Luna Este
Minimum Bid Price: 74,000.00

LOT 158 - LOT ONLY
Lot Area: 1,114 sqm.
L5639-Tt (Prado) (Concepcion) Luna Este
Minimum Bid Price: 67,000.00

LOT 159 - LOT ONLY
Lot Area: 1,160 sqm.
Lot 5639-Yy Luna Este
Minimum Bid Price: 70,000.00

LOT 160 - LOT ONLY
Lot Area: 447 sqm.
Lot 5639-V(Prado)(Concepcion) Luna Este
Minimum Bid Price: 19,000.00

LOT 161 - LOT ONLY
Lot Area: 447 sqm.
Lot 5639-J Luna Este
Minimum Bid Price: 22,000.00

LOT 162 - LOT ONLY
Lot Area: 416 sqm.
Lot 1 Blk. 9 Luna Este
Minimum Bid Price: 25,000.00

LOT 163 - LOT ONLY
Lot Area. 973 sqm.
Lot 5 Blk. 3 & Lot 6 Blk 3 Prado
Minimum Bid Price: 35,000.00

LOT 164 - LOT ONLY
Lot Area: 401 sqm.
Lot 5 Blk. 4 Luna Este
Minimum Bid Price: 20,000.00

LOT 165 - LOT ONLY
Lot Area: 475 sqm.
Lot 5639-Uu Luna Este
Minimum Bid Price: 29,000.00

LOT 166 - LOT ONLY
Lot Area: 475 sqm.
Lot 5639-Hh Luna Este
Minimum Bid Price: 33,000.00

LOT 167 - LOT ONLY
Lot Area: 1,200 sqm.
Lot 9 Blk. 1, Lot 10 Blk. 1 & Lot 11 Blk. 1 Luna Este
Minimum Bid Price: 43,000.00

LOT 168 - LOT ONLY
Lot Area: 420 sqm.
Lot 5639-Bbb Luna Este
Minimum Bid Price: 18,000.00

LOT 169 - LOT ONLY
Lot Area: 800 sqm.
Lot 4 Blk. 1 & Lot 2 Blk 1 Luna Este
Minimum Bid Price: 41,000.00

LOT 170 - LOT ONLY
Lot Area: 417 sqm.
Lot 5639-Bbb-4 Luna Este
Minimum Bid Price: 18,000.00

LOT 171 - LOT ONLY
Lot Area: 557 sqm.
Lot 5639-A & Lot 5639-Aaa Luna Este
Minimum Bid Price: 34,000.00

LOT 172 - LOT ONLY
Lot Area: 1,359 sqm.
Lot 5639-Bbb 13, Lot 5639-Bbb 14 & Lot 5639-Bbb 15 Luna Este
Minimum Bid Price: 58,000.00

LOT 173 - LOT ONLY
Lot Area: 1,160 sqm.
Lot 5639-Nn (Prado-Concepcion-Before) Luna Este
Minimum Bid Price: 70,000.00

LOT 174 - LOT ONLY
Lot Area: 395 sqm.
Lot 3 Blk. 9 Luna Este
Minimum Bid Price: 21,000.00

LOT 175 - LOT ONLY
Lot Area: 395 sqm.
Lot 4 Blk. 9 Luna Este
Minimum Bid Price: 21,000.00

LOT 176 - LOT ONLY
Lot Area: 395 sqm.
Lot 5 Blk. 9 Luna Este
Minimum Bid Price: 21,000.00

LOT 177 - LOT ONLY
Lot Area: 395 sqm.
Lot 6 Blk. 9 Luna Este
Minimum Bid Price: 21,000.00

LOT 178 - LOT ONLY
Lot Area: 379 sqm.
Lot 1 Blk 2 Luna Este
Minimum Bid Price: 20,000.00

VILLASIS

LOT 179 - LOT ONLY
Lot Area: 202 sqm.
Lot 17 Poblacion
Minimum Bid Price: 207,000.00

LOT 180 - LOT ONLY
Lot Area: 1,000 sqm.
Lot 5445-B-5-B San Nicolas
Minimum Bid Price: 255,000.00

LOT 181 - LOT ONLY
Lot Area: 1,000 sqm.
Lot 5445-B-5-A San Nicolas
Minimum Bid Price: 255,000.00

LOT 182 - LOT ONLY
Lot Area: 415 sqm.
Lot 4-A & Lot 4-C-3 Poblacion
Minimum Bid Price: 530,000.00

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Jibong 0922-8042496 • Dennis 0921-7138545 • Marlyn (075) 515 5242 • Eleodoro (075) 522 9752

CBRE CB RICHARD ELLIS AUCTION MANAGER

REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES
PRESIDENTIAL COMMISSION ON GOOD GOVERNMENT
Regional Office 8
Tacloban City

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

The Presidential Commission on Good Government (PCGG), Region 8, invites interested parties to participate in the sealed bidding for the lease of the ground floor of the People's Center and Library located at Real St., Tacloban City as venue for "CHRISTMAS BAZAAR" trade exhibit from November 15, 2004 to January 15, 2005.

The bidding guidelines will be available at PCGG Office, Asset Management Department, 3rd Floor, IRC Building, 82 EDSA Mandaluyong City and at the PCGG Regional Office, Nipa Hut, Jones St., Tacloban City, starting September 6, 2004. For inquiries, please contact Mr. Alfredo dela Paz at Telephone Nos. 726-0034 and 725-6958 and Mr. Renor O. Dauag at Telephone No. (053) 321-3413.

Pre-qualification requirements should be submitted on or before September 15, 2004, while bids will be received, opened and tabulated at 10:00 A.M. on September 20, 2004 in the presence of the bidders at the PCGG Office, Asset Management Department, 3rd Floor, IRC Building, 82 EDSA, Mandaluyong City.

(Sgd.) **RENOR O. DAUAG**
Officer-In-Charge
PCGG, Region 8
Tacloban City

(PDI–Sept. 3, 4 & 5, 2004)

Republic of the Philippines
DEPARTMENT OF LABOR AND EMPLOYMENT
EMPLOYEES' COMPENSATION COMMISSION
3rd Floor, ECC Building, 355 Sen. Gil J. Puyat Avenue, City of Makati
Tel. No. 890-4765 • Fax No. 897-7597 •
E-mail: ecc@lconn.com.ph • Website: http://www.ecc.org.ph

NOTICE TO DIALYSIS CENTERS

The **Employees' Compensation Commission** is inviting all interested dialysis centers and hospitals with dialysis services to submit their quotations for initial and re-use dialysis (sodium bicarbonate) to service renal patients who are recipients of disability benefits under the Employees' Compensation Program.

Interested parties are requested to submit their letters of intent with quotation at 3rd Floor, ECC Building, 355 Sen. Gil J. Puyat Avenue, City of Makati.

Deadline of submission is on **September 10, 2004.**

For more information, please call the Work Contingency Prevention and Rehabilitation Division at **Telephone Nos. 890-4794; 890-4797.**

(PDI - September 4, 2004)

ILOCOS NORTE ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE, INC.
Suyo, Dingras, Ilocos Norte, PHILIPPINES 2913
Tel. No. (077) 784-75-46 & 47; 784-71-25 & Fax No. (077) 784-71-25

INVITATION FOR PRE-QUALIFICATION AND FOR BIDS

The Ilocos Norte Electric Cooperative, Inc. has applied for a loan from the Development Bank of the Philippines to finance the construction of its 69 KV power line and invites electrical contractors who are PCAB registered to apply for pre-qualification and to submit bids for the said project.

The project includes the furnishing of labor and materials for the construction of about 37 kilometers of 69 KV line along the national highway in the Province of Ilocos Norte.

Interested contractors may obtain their pre-qualification forms and bid documents from the INEC main office starting **September 14, 2004.**

Pre-qualification documents must be received by this office not later than **September 28, 2004.** Only those pre-qualified shall be invited to bid for the project.

INEC reserves the right to reject any or all bids, to waive any defect or informality, assume no obligation whatsoever of indemnity to the bidders any expense or loss that the bidder may incur in the preparations of its bid and to accept the bid most advantageous to INEC.

(Sgd.) **RENATO A. BALINTEC PEE**
PBAC Chairman

(PDI – September 4 & 5, 2004)

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CREMATORY SERVICES
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Bayani Road, Fort Bonifacio, Taguig, Metro Manila
Trunk Line: (632) 845-2334 to 38

OBITUARIES

Message of Thanks

We, the family of the late

ANTONIO RO. HERRERA, SR.

who passed away 16 August 2004

wish to express our deep gratitude and sincerest appreciation to all those who have condoled and comforted us in our hour of bereavement.

The Chairman, Dr. Jose R. Locsin, through the Board of Trustees of Meycauayan Institute, Inc. would like to condole the bereaved family of

Engr. VICENTE HERMOSO, JR.

who died last September 1, 2004.

His remains lie in state at St. Francis of Assisi Parish church at Meycauayan, Bulacan.

He will be interred on Sunday, September 5, 2004 at the Hermoso Mausoleum in Meycauayan, Bulacan after the 10:00 a.m. cremation rites at the Ever Memorial Garden, Valenzuela City.

There will be a Mass at 8:00 a.m. on September 5, 2004 at the St. Francis of Assisi Church, Meycauayan, Bulacan.

An obituary with a picture can be a fitting tribute to your departed loved one.

OBITUARY REQUIREMENTS:
❶ Copy of Death Certificate ❷ Any identification document (I.D.)

WE ACCEPT CREDIT CARDS and bank-to-bank payments

DEATH ANNOUNCEMENT • MESSAGE OF THANKS
DEATH ANNIVERSARY • REQUIEMS • FREE OBIT DESIGN

Whoever finds his life will lose it, and whoever loses his life for my sake will find it.
Matthew 10:39

"My soul, be at rest in God alone from whom comes my hope." Psalm 62:6

JOSE F. VERGARA

November 2, 1918 – August 30, 2004

His loving wife, **Lourdes "Odding" Batac**; children, **Nick** and **Frankie** (†); daughter-in-law, **Cora**; grandchildren, **Edwin** and **Avie, Shiela, Michael** and **Kathy**; great grandchildren, **Ieci, Nica, Mae, Angela, Michael, Caitlin, Joseph, Macmac**; parents (†); brothers and sisters; brothers-in-law and sisters-in-law; nephews and nieces; and other relatives request the pious readers to pray for the eternal repose of his soul.

His remains will arrive on Monday, September 6, at 6:00 a.m. from Hayward, California, U.S.A. and will lie in state at the Loyola Memorial Chapels, Guadalupe, Makati City.

Interment is on Thursday, September 9, 2004 at the Loyola Memorial Park, Marikina City after the 8:00 a.m. Mass.

"I am the Resurrection & the Life He who believes in Me will live, Even though he dies & whoever Believes in Me will never die."

Our Dearly Beloved Nanay

LYDIA AGAWIN HABACON

of Pagsanjan, Laguna

Peacefully joined the Lord and her husband ***Atty. Ernesto B. Habacon, Sr.*** *on September 2, 2004 at the age of 90.*

Her children **Emma & Lito Garayblas; Vic & Evel Hilado; Tek & Tessie; Frank & Patty; Bong & Dada; Eddie & Betsy** and **Eva & George Lyle**; grandchildren and great grandchildren, and other relatives and friends request the pious readers to pray for the eternal repose of her soul.

Her remains lie in state at La Funeraria Paz, Araneta Avenue, Quezon City.

Interment will be announced later.

"For God so loved the world, that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him shall not perish but have everlasting life."
John 3:16

We design **OBITUARIES** for free.

CLASSIFIEDS

ABANGAN!

Job Market's JOBZ: OVERSEAS Employment Expo

Ang Job Fair na ito ay lalahukan ng ilan sa mga tanyag at respetadong **overseas recruitment agencies** ng bansa.

Para sa mga ahensya na naghahangad na makahanap ng mga kandidato para sa **OVERSEAS EMPLOYMENT**, narito ang event na dapat mong salihan.

Kailan: **October 11 & 12, 2004**
Saan: **Starmall, Las Piñas**

Para sa mga interesadong sumali, maari kayong tumawag sa mga sumusunod na **Inquirer Classified Ads branches:**

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Quezon City	912-9008 to 10
Mandaluyong	635-0219 / 637-2008
Manila	527-3342 / 522-4406
Provincial	897-8808 loc. 243

Sali na!

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER JOB Market JOB Market starmall

JOBZ OVERSEAS EMPLOYMENT EXPO
OCTOBER 11 & 12, 2004 STARMALL, LAS PINAS

Pasig River Rehabilitation Commission
2/F Engineering Building, MWSS Compound
Katipunan Road, Balara, Quezon City
Telephone Nos. +632 9265233; +632 4333446
Telefax Nos. +632 9265234; +632 4333444

NOTICE OF CONSULTATIVE MEETING TO OPERATE PASIG RIVER FERRY SERVICE

Notice is hereby given to all parties interested in operating a river ferry service for a consultative meeting on the revival of the Pasig River Ferry Service:

DATE : **10 September 2004**
TIME : **9:00 A.M.**
VENUE : **Manila City Conference Room**
Metro Manila Development Authority (MMDA)
EDSA corner Orense Street, Guadalupe,
Makati City

For inquiries, please call Ms. Haidee Moreno or Mr. Noel Mirallosa at Telephone No. 926-5234.

(Sgd.) **BINGLE GUTIERREZ**
Executive Director

SCIENCE/HEALTH

E-mail: pr_science_health@inquirer.com.ph
Editor Cesar D. Mangawang
Assistant Editor Stella O. Gonzales
Text us your feedback: inquirer hea name/city/message to 2207 (Globe) or 283 (Smart)

Obesity increases risk for 9 cancers

Heart disease and diabetes get all the attention, but expanding waistlines increase the risk for at least nine types of cancer, too.

And with the obesity epidemic showing no signs of waning, specialists say they need to better understand how fat cells fuel cancer growth so they might fight back.

What's already clear: being overweight can make it harder to spot tumors early, catch recurrences, determine the best chemotherapy dose, and fit into radiation machines.

That in turn hurts chances of survival. One major study last year estimated that excess weight may account for 14 percent to 20 percent of all cancer deaths.

"Obesity makes taking care of cancer patients much more complicated," says Dr. Christopher Desch, a medical oncologist in Richmond, Virginia.

Obesity's multiple risks

So why is cancer often the afterthought when listing obesity's multiple risks?

"The cancer picture is a little bit more subtle," says American Cancer Society epidemiologist Eugenia Calle, one of the nation's leading specialists on the link.

The risks of heart disease and diabetes from packing on pounds are much higher, and more immediate because cancer typically develops more slowly than those illnesses, she explains.

Fat is known to increase the risk of developing cancers of the colon, breast, uterus, kidney, esophagus, pancreas, gallbladder, liver and top of the stomach.

Uterine lining cancer

How big a role girth plays varies greatly, and the strongest connections are actually in less common cancers.

Weight is most strongly linked to cancer of the uterine lining, or endometrium. An overweight woman has twice the risk of developing that cancer than a lean one; once she becomes obese, the risk rises as much as 3.5- to 5-fold.

The obese have up to triple the risk of kidney cancer and a type of esophageal cancer as do the normal-weight.

Overweight or obese men are 50 percent to twice as likely as lean men to get colon cancer. For women, the extra risk is 20 to 50 percent.

Fat is linked to breast cancer in postmenopausal women only, increasing risk of the disease by 30 percent among the overweight and 50 percent among the obese.

Fat cells apparently play different roles that can spur different types of cancer growth.

"Fat cells are not just static storage depots," explains Calle. The worst, because it's most metabolically active, is visceral fat, the kind that builds up in the abdomen and surrounds organs there.

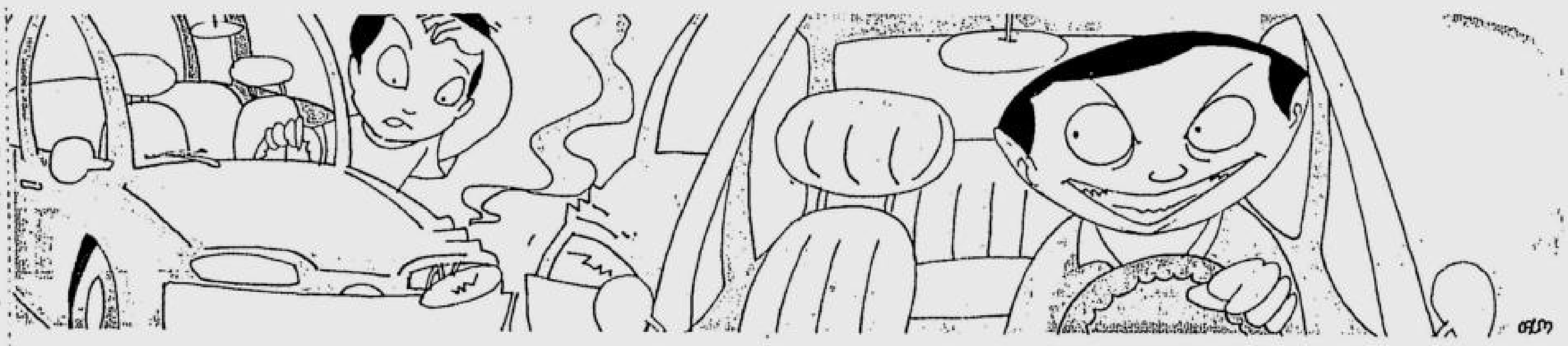
But exactly how fat cells work isn't well understood. They can spur surges of insulin and proteins that may in turn unleash out-of-control growth among certain cell types.

Fat cells also trigger inflammation, a known culprit in heart disease that's now increasingly suspect in cancer, too.

Fat cells also make estrogen, which fuels breast cancer.

After menopause, fat becomes a woman's leading source of estrogen. While anti-estrogen therapies are common, the fatter a woman is, the harder it is to lower hormone levels—one reason the obese have at least a 50 percent greater chance of dying from breast cancer than lean patients, Calle says.

Then there are organ-by-organ reactions. For example, the obese are particularly prone to "gastroesophageal reflux," frequent heartburn where a backup of stomach acid onto the delicate esophagus eventually can lead to esophageal cancer. *AP*



Revenge is not cheap

DISCOVER

Massie Santos Ballon

YOU'RE stuck in traffic for three hours and nothing's moving. Suddenly a car drives past you by going onto the shoulder off the road. He's quickly followed by another car, and then another, and soon there's a seventh lane where there should only be four (everyone knows that no one really follows the highway lane markers anyway). Then your lane starts moving and suddenly all those cars on that extra lane have to get back into line to go anywhere.

Are you going to let them into your lane? Unlikely. In fact, you'll probably even lean forward and mutter curses as you drive, staying right up against the bumper of the car in front of you just so there's no chance of anyone else trying to squeeze into your lane. And when you finally pass all the cars in that extra lane, you smile and laugh and feel really, really good.

Everyone has felt the urge to avenge themselves for some wrong, no matter how small. Why? Scientists tell us that when we act on a desire to get revenge, the reward-processing centers in our brains are activated and we feel good.

In a study that appeared in last week's issue of Science, Ernst Fehr and his colleagues at the University of Zurich presented an explanation why people sometimes do things that don't benefit themselves. The answer: because they are benefiting, but not in a physically measurable way.

The experiment

For their study, Fehr et al. paired up several volunteers and designated half as "A" and the other half as "B." A and B were given 10 money units (MUs) each and A was asked to decide if he trusted B. If he said yes, A gave B all his money. If he said no, both players kept their 10 MUs.

If A gave his money to B, the researchers quadrupled the amount so B actually got 40 MUs. B could then either (a) keep all 50 MUs or (b) give 25 MUs back to A. Both players were given an extra 20 MUs each after B had decided.

When B decided to keep the money (which happened over half of the time) and A sought revenge by assigning him up to 25 punishment points, Fehr et al. then applied one of three conditions: (1) every punishment point A assigned to B cost A one MU and cost B two MUs; (2) A lost nothing but B lost two MUs for every punishment point received; (3) neither A nor B lost any money when B got punishment points.

The researchers incorporated a fourth condition where they made the decision for B and told A that B had decided to keep the money. If A sought revenge, the same costs applied as under the IC condition.

The most fascinating thing about the study isn't the fact that people enjoy punishing others, but rather that people do believe in fairness and that the same social rules apply to everyone unconditionally. Offended by B's decision to keep all the money instead of being fair and giving him half, A chose to punish B. It had been A's decision, after all, that had resulted in B receiving so much money and therefore A did not think it socially acceptable for B not to share the profits.

Examining reaction in brain

Fehr et al. used positron emission tomography (PET) to examine the brains of the volunteers who acted as A as they made decisions. In PET scans, low-level radioactive tracers are mixed into a liquid such as water or glucose and injected into the body so that researchers can track brain activity by observing the blood flow to and from the different parts of the brain.

Fehr et al. had theorized that when A decided to punish B, the reward centers in A's brains would be activated. They found that the dorsal striatum, a portion of the brain containing the caudate nucleus and is associated with reward-processing, was activated. PET scans also showed that A players who had high caudate activation levels gave B more punishment points, even if it cost A monetarily.

The results suggest that people are willing to punish others to maintain a code of values that applies to everyone in the society, even if it means making a personal sacrifice.

It doesn't hurt that the punisher is rewarded by good feelings. This notion of doing something for the good of all rather than just one actually benefits the entire community in the long run and increases the level of cooperation within the group.

So maybe cutting off the drivers who created an extra lane on the side of the road is socially acceptable (beware of road rage though). But if we really want to be fair, we should all follow the lane markings on the highway.

E-mail the author at massie@massie.com.

KIDS' QUIZ WEEK 5

Hospital equipments

IMAGINE how it would feel to be operated on without anesthesia. *Yeooow!* Get to know some of the discoverers of our present hospital devices. Match the name of the equipment on the left with the name of its inventor on the right.

Device/equipment	Inventor
1. anesthesia	a) Zacharias Jansen
2. X-ray machine	b) Godfrey Hounsfield
3. stethoscope	c) Raymond Damadian
4. microscope	d) René Laënnec
5. thermometer	e) Philip Drinker
6. incubator	f) William Thomas Morton
7. CT Scan	g) Paul Zoll
8. MRI	h) Augustus Desiré Waller
9. EKG machine	i) Daniel Gabriel Fahrenheit
10. pacemaker	j) William Konrad Röentgen
	k) Stephanie Turnier

LAST week's answers: 1-j, 2-a, 3-h, 4-c, 5-k, 6-b, 7-i, 8-g, 9-f, 10-e

Join and get a chance to win a Sony Ericsson T230 mobile phone and a premium gift pack!

Send your answers on or before Sept. 9, 2004, 2 p.m. to kidsquiz@inquirer.com.ph with your name, address, telephone number and date of birth.
Last week's winner: LESTER JAMES M. DIONISIO
You can claim your prize at the Marketing Department, PDI Building, Chino Roces Ave. cor. Yague and Mascardo Sts., Makati City and look for Ms. Chris Vida (Monday-Friday, 9 a.m.-4 p.m.)

Math in trading

(Conclusion)

EUREKA!

Queena N. Lee-Chua

FOR THE PAST two weeks, we looked at how math is used in finance, specifically trading. Reader Travis Chua has given his ideas on human biases in trading, and has asked for comments on specific applications of math in the field.

What do you think of trend following and arbitrage? How important is bet sizing to the performance of a portfolio?

Trend following is very much associated with technical analysis. As the term implies, it does not base its conclusions so much on traditional fundamental indicators but on analyzing price behavior in markets.

In the past, trend following was used only for a few markets, but the process became quite successful that now many traders swear by it.

Trend following is highly reactive to volatility, current prices and equity levels. Mathematical algorithms are used, but there is still risk. Most mathematicians see no problem in trend following if the data on which the process is based is sound.

What about arbitrage?

There is a lot of information on financial arbitrage and commercial tools are available on the Web to help the trader. However, math research behind this is still relatively sparse. One good research article is Michael Boguslavsky and Elena Boguslavskaya's paper in the Economics Working Paper Archive [http://econpapers.hhs.se/paper/wpawuwpfi/0309012.htm]. They talk about possible problems in statistical and fundamental arbitrage from a mathematical and economics point of view. Their abstract reads:

"We consider the position management problem for an agent trading a mean-reverting asset. This problem arises in many statistical and fundamental arbitrage trading situations when the short-term returns on an asset are predictable but limited risk-bearing capacity does not allow [a full exploitation of] this predictability.

"The model is rather simple; it does not require any inputs apart from the parameters of the price process and the agent's relative risk aversion. However, the model reproduces some realistic patterns of traders' behavior.

"We use the Ornstein-Uhlenbeck process to model the price process and consider a finite horizon power utility agent. The dynamic programming approach yields a nonlinear PDE. It is solved explicitly, and simple formulas for the value function and the optimal trading strategy are obtained. We use Monte-Carlo simulation to check for the effects of parameter misspecification."

What is bet-sizing?

Bet-sizing is more popularly known as money management. Financial managers consider it essential in portfolio management, and mathematicians concur. However, there is some controversy when using it with respect to trend following.

In traditional portfolio management, the number of shares is set by precise formulas, which have their own pros and cons. Constant shares will prevent investors from investing too much in one particular stock, thus providing a measure of security.

However, constancy may be a hindrance when rapid movements of the market dictate more flexibility. Math formulas used in trend following are also applied in bet-sizing, and when used right, can be an asset.

Futures trading system

There is a simple trading system at originalturtles.org. [A] cross-check with other reputable sources [shows] a good chance that the system...is truly the futures trading system of the legendary Turtles. I found the concept of N fascinating and a great application of commonsense math.

Is there an area of math that specifically deals with what N attempts to solve? I've read about many successful traders who claim N (and other volatility-based tools in trading) are applications of robust statistics, which is supposedly different from the precise and clear-cut tools of normal statistics. These traders claim that normal statistics fails when applied to trading because the distribution of price changes is not normal.

I am happy to tell you that robust statistics is a legitimate field of math, and was developed even before trading systems came into vogue. However, you are right. Many common statistical methods in the social sciences assume that distributions are normal and that variances are homogeneous, and in these cases, traditional statistics (normal curve, T-test, Anova) can easily be used.

But in real life, these two assumptions are often violated, thus other methods have been developed to analyze them. With the aid of high-speed computers, the field of robust statistics has been steadily developing, and I am sure these techniques are already being used in trading (although I have yet to see a concrete example of such use).

The best text is Peter Huber's book "Robust Statistics." College-level statistics is needed to go through the math involved. The cover reads: "Although several leading scientists in the late 19th and early 20th centuries possessed a clear, operational understanding of the idea of robust statistics, the field was not recognized as a legitimate area of investigation until the mid-1960s. Briefly, a statistical method that exhibits an insensitivity to deviation from its own assumptions is robust. The present volume represents the first systematic, book-length exposition of the subject."

ASK THE DENTIST

Paul R. De Castro, DMD

Is toothpaste beneficial?

IS the use of toothpaste much better than using only a toothbrush?

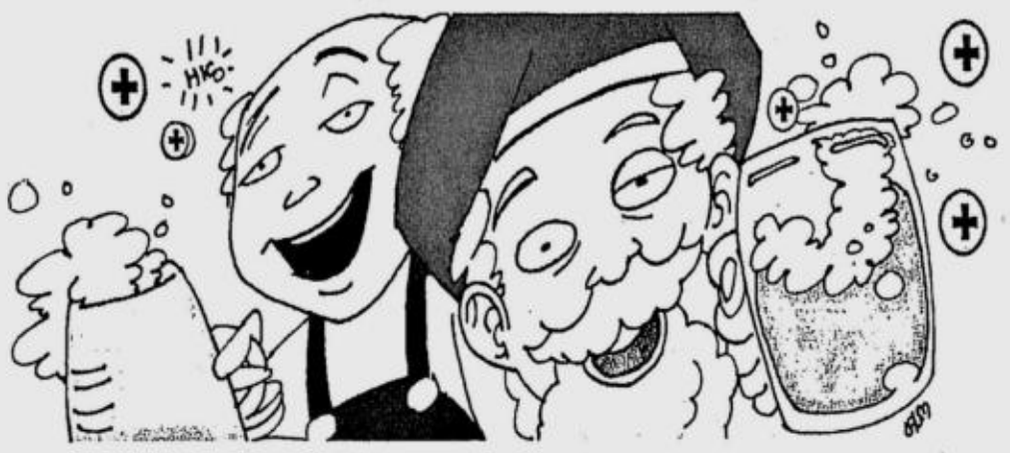
—Brian G.

Some studies have shown no significant difference in the cleanliness of the teeth whether one uses toothpaste or not. The only real advantage of toothpaste is that it can contain fluoride which would make the teeth stronger. Tooth brushing after meals would also be an easier habit to maintain if one uses toothpaste.

E-mail your questions at dentalqs@yahoo.com.

Does beer have health benefits?

By Rafael R. Castillo, MD



GERMERING, Bavaria—"Beer, if taken in moderation, softens the temper, cheers the spirit and promotes health." That is according to beer drinkers. For beer-drinking Bavarians, beer is the remedy to many ailments.

This quaint farming town has retained much of its small-village charm where apron-clad *frauleins* serve you in restaurants and gentlemen, fresh from work, troop to the taverns or *biergarten* (beer garden) and drink a pint or two of their favorite beer before going home.

Many people in the region have taken to beer, preferring it over drinking water. And for them, that's a healthy practice.

Scientific literatures support the findings that moderate beer drinking—one to two bottles per day—can confer some health benefits similar to those derived from red wine. But drink more than two bottles a day, and you might just be pushing your luck too far and getting more hazards than benefits.

People who drink too much beer develop a beer belly which can make them prime candidates for metabolic syndrome, shrunken brains (alcoholic dementia), liver problems (hepatitis, cirrhosis and cancer) and a host of other life-threatening medical problems.

MEDICAL FILES

Better than wine

Whether you prefer ales, lagers, stout, bitter or wheat beers, studies show that one drink a day for women or up to two drinks a day for men will reduce your chances of strokes, heart and vascular disease, and even Alzheimer's disease.

Beer folks even hasten to add: "Although red wine has long been touted as the healthiest type of alcohol, new research shows that beer is just as good—and possibly even better—than wine or spirits when it comes to health protection."

Literatures even quote world-renowned experts like Dr. Norman Kaplan, professor of internal medicine at the University of Texas Southwestern Medical Center at Dallas; Meir Stampfer, professor of nutrition and epidemiology at Harvard School of Public Health and Nutrition; and Eric Rimm, associate professor of epidemiology at Harvard School of Public Health, as references on the health benefits of moderate beer-drinking.

"People who drink moderately...are not doing any harm. For those who don't, if they don't [drink] simply out of health concerns, they might want to rethink that position," says Professor Stampfer.

A beer a week

If you're afraid of the cirrhosis or hepatitis risk associated with alcohol, a beer a week might also help. An article published in the New England Journal of Medicine suggests that those who drank one beer a week experienced no variance in reducing stroke risks compared to those who drank one beer a day. Light to moderate drinkers apparently decrease their chances of suffering a stroke by 20 percent.

A researcher at the Texas Southwestern Medical Center also reported that those who consume moderate amounts of beer have a 30-40 percent lower rate of coronary heart disease compared to those who don't drink.

This might be due to the polyphenols (antioxidants) in beer, which are present in the same quantity as in red wine, and four to five times more compared to white wine.

The vitamin B6 in beer is also believed to be a beneficial component because it prevents the buildup of a harmful amino acid called homocysteine. This substance has been associated with a higher incidence of heart and vascular disease.

A study conducted by the Nutrition and Food Research Institute in Utrecht shows that those who drank beer had no increase in their homocysteine level, but those who drank wine or liquor had an increase of up to 10 percent.

Those who drank beer were shown to have a 30 percent increase in vitamin B6 in their blood plasma, suggesting that beer, taken in moderation, actually confers more benefits than wine and other liquor.

Experts stress that moderation is the key. So if you drink beer, do it responsibly and moderately so you can raise your mug and say cheers to good health.

Cholesterol targets lowered; guidelines updated

By Charles E. Buban

PATIENTS who are already hard pressed to meet their target LDL ("bad") cholesterol levels will now have to work even harder following a recent revision of the guidelines for cholesterol management for people at risk of heart attack.

The United States National Cholesterol Education Program (NCEP) is now advising patients at very high risk of cardiovascular disease to reduce their LDL cholesterol levels to less than 70 milligrams/deciliter, down from the previous 100 mg/dL.

The NCEP defines "very high-risk patients" as those who have been hospitalized for acute coronary syndromes such as heart attack, and have cardiovascular disease together with either multiple risk factors (especially diabetes) or severe and poorly controlled risk factors (e.g., continued smoking) or metabolic syndrome (a collection of risk factors associated with obesity including high triglycerides and low HDL or "good" cholesterol).

The NCEP Adult Treatment Panel 3 report, endorsed by the United States National Heart, Lung, and Blood Institute, the American College of Cardiology, and the American Heart Association, was also acknowledged by various medical organizations here in the Philippines.

Basis for the update

The need to update the Adult Treatment Panel 3 report, which was originally published in 2001, was based on a review of five major clinical trials of statin therapy. These recent trials add to the evidence that when it comes to LDL cholesterol, lower is better for persons with high risk of heart attack, said Dr. Rody Sy, president of the Asian Pacific Society of Atherosclerosis and Vascular Diseases.

Speaking before a conference organized by Friendly Alliances and Media Expressions Inc. and Pfizer Philippines, Sy said these trials showed a direct relationship between lower LDL cholesterol levels and reduced risk for major coronary events.

"Lifestyle changes continue to be an essential part of controlling cholesterol. Therapeutic lifestyle changes (TLC), which employs intensive use of nutrition, physical activity and weight control for cholesterol management, has the potential to reduce cardiovascular risk," Sy said, adding that sticking to this regimen may bring positive results in as short a period as 30 days.

Other recommendations

The updated ATP 3 report included the following recommendations:

- For very high-risk patients whose LDL levels are already below 100 mg/dL, there is an option to use drug therapy to reach the less than 70 mg/dL goal.
- For high-risk patients, the overall goal remains an LDL level of less than 100 mg/dL although drug therapy is recommended for those whose LDL is 100 to 129 mg/dL.

Philippine Society of Hypertension president Dr. Esperanza Cabral classified "high-risk patients" as those who have coronary heart disease or disease of the blood vessels to the brain or extremities, or diabetes, or have two or more risk factors (e.g., smoking, hypertension) that give them a greater than 20 percent chance of having a heart attack within 10 years.

- For moderately high-risk patients, the goal remains an LDL under 130 mg/dL. But the ATP 3 report provides a therapeutic option to set a lower LDL goal of under 100 mg/dL and to use drug therapy at LDL levels of 100 to 129 mg/dL to reach this lower goal.

Dr. Mary Ann Lim-Abrahan, president of the Philippine Lipid Society, said this could be accomplished by taking statins or by combining lower doses of statins with other drugs like fibrate or nicotinic acid.

The ATP 3 report update did not revise recommendations for lower risk people or those with moderate risk (having two or more risk factors plus an under 10 percent risk of a heart attack in 10 years) or those with zero to one risk factor.

Dr. Tommy Ty-Willing of the Philippine Diabetes Association said the update to the ATP 3 guidelines is not the final word on LDL cholesterol goals.

There are three ongoing trials abroad among high-risk individuals which when completed may lead to a broader recommendation for reaching very low LDL cholesterol goals in high-risk patients, he said.

THE AWARDEES are shown with (from left) Pfizer president and country manager Rey Bacarro; Pfizer regional president for Asia Alan Taylor; Health Secretary Manuel Dayrit; Philippine Daily Inquirer chair Marixi Prieto; Asian Institute of Management president Roberto de Ocampo; St. Luke's Heart Institute chair emeritus Dr. Homobono Calleja; and WHO representative to the Philippines Dr. Jean Marc Olivé.

Pfizer honors health heroes on 50th year

PFIZER recently marked its 50th anniversary in the Philippines by honoring five Heroes for Health awardees during ceremonies held as part of its anniversary celebrations at the Edsa Shangri-La Hotel in Mandaluyong.

The Heroes for Health Award is a joint project of Pfizer with the Department of Health to recognize five men and women who have worked hard and sacrificed much in undertaking projects that have made a significant and continuing impact in improving the health and quality of life of Filipinos, especially the needy and the underserved.

5 awardees

The five awardees were Dr. Romulo A. Busuego, chief of hospital of the Davao Regional Hospital in Tagum City, Davao del Norte; Florencia C. Dorotan, special adviser and former executive director of the Lingap Para sa Kalusugan ng Sambayanan (Likas) in Irosin, Sorsogon; Dr. Editha C. Miguel, program director of the Agape Rural Program in Puerto Princesa City, Palawan; Dr. Ma. Dominga B. Padilla, chair of the Eye Bank Foundation of the Philippines and medical director of the Santa Lucia International Eye Bank of Manila; and Dr. Kadil M. Sinolinding Jr., medical director of the Kabacan Polymedic Hospital in Kabacan, Cotabato and head of the hospital's Vision 20/20 Cataract Charities project.

"The Heroes for Health Award is our way of thanking and giving something meaningful to the Filipino people—recognizing these living heroes who share our commitment to helping Filipinos live healthier, longer and better lives, and to assist them to continue and even expand their projects," said Rey Gerardo Bacarro, Pfizer president and country manager.

"Through this award, we also hope to inspire and encourage our countrymen to likewise do their part in promoting the health and welfare of our less privileged fellow citizens in whatever way they can, in their own communities, in our own country," Bacarro added.

Each of the five awardees received P500,000 from Pfizer (half for the awardee, half for the project) and a specially designed medallion.

Deserving awardees

Dr. Busuego, a surgeon, initiated the Surgical Networking Extension Program (SNEP) in 1989. SNEP is a mobile surgical service program which in the last 14 years has been able to provide much-needed and affordable mobile surgery services to thousands of people living in rural communities not just in his home base region (Region 11) but also Region 12 and the Caraga region.

As cofounder and executive director of Lingap Para sa Kalusugan ng Sambayanan (Likas) in Irosin, Sorsogon, in the late '80s and the '90s, Dr. Dorotan, now still serving as consultant to Likas, not only enhanced the organization's community health programs but also expanded the scope of its operations beyond health into a more integrated and holistic one that included environmental conservation, sanitation, nutrition and livelihood projects covering not just Irosin but other towns in Sorsogon.

Dr. Miguel was one of the first volunteers of the Agape Rural Program (ARP) of the Ministry of the Campus Crusade for Christ in 1986. ARP sought to help address the acute health needs of people in the rural areas—first in Palawan and Leyte and later on in Cagayan and Nueva Ecija. She became program director of ARP and has been engaged in recruiting volunteers for ARP's projects, training of community health workers and leading medical clinics to underserved tribal communities in the hinterlands.

Dr. Padilla has been the moving force behind the program to alleviate corneal blindness in the Philippines. She lobbied for the passage of a bill in Congress allowing the harvesting of corneas from medico-legal cases and gained the cooperation of the Philippine National Police and other public and private organizations in sourcing the corneas and delivering them quickly and for free to the Eye Bank Foundation of the Philippines, which she has founded. She has served as medical director of the foundation's Santa Lucia International Eye Bank of Manila which has helped cure thousands of charity patients suffering from eye ailments.

Dr. Sinolinding, the youngest among the awardees, organized the Kabacan Polymedic Cooperative Hospital's Vision 20/20 Cataract Charities project in 1998 to address the alarming rate of blindness, especially among the poor Muslim and Christian population. Since then, he and his fellow doctors have examined some 35,000 cases and performed 5,500 eye surgeries not just in Cotabato but in Maguindanao, Lanao del Sur, Sulu, Basilan and the ARMM region.

Board of judges

The board of judges was chaired by Lilia Bautista, Philippine ambassador to Belgium and former chair of the Securities and Exchange Commission.

Members of the board were Health Secretary Manuel Dayrit; Rey Gerardo Bacarro, president and country manager of Pfizer; Dr. Homobono Calleja, chair emeritus of St. Luke's Heart Institute and past president of the Philippine Medical Association; Roberto de Ocampo, Asian Institute of Management president and former finance secretary; Dr. Jean-Marc Olive, World Health Organization representative to the Philippines; and Marixi Prieto, chair of the board of the Philippine Daily Inquirer. The screening and judging proceedings were supervised by Joaquin Cunanan & Co./PricewaterhouseCoopers.

Medical team fielded to various workplaces

A TEAM of experts is currently visiting workplaces to conduct free medical consultations and seminars as its way of preventing the onslaught of the cold virus during this rainy season.

The on-call team, composed of UERM Memorial Medical Center consultants Doctors Antonio Bernardo Amisola and Ronnel Habaluyas and De La Salle University speaker/educator Franchette Punsalang, has initially visited Asia Brewery Inc. and Philamlife where they gave seminars on colds and its proper management, as well as lectures on the importance of time and stress management toward the achievement of optimum performance at work.

"Even the slightest form of illness—such as the common cold—has the potential to get out of hand. When it starts to infect people, business operations can get very much disrupted so any workplace should be prepared," said Dr. Amisola.

Supporting the on-call team is the maker of cold medicine Decolgen that offers two formulations—the No-Drowse Decolgen that gives relief without the drowsy after-feel and Decolgen Forte for those who really need bed rest due to severe cold and sinusitis.

The maker of Decolgen said that while the cold virus in itself may be unavoidable—as there are no antiviral medications available for treating colds—identifying the right cold formulation can at least alleviate the symptoms and disruption of work that it may cause on the person.

The doctors added that colds, which is more common during rainy and colder months, are highly contagious and often spread when droplets of fluid that contain a cold virus are transferred by touch.

These droplets may also be inhaled, which is why there is increased risk of infection among people who are in close proximity, like workplaces.

Charles E. Buban

SciScope

Throat care tips for the rainy season

BACTIDOL shares these important reminders when sore throat sets in:

- **Increase intake of water and/or fruit juices.** This effectively helps prevent dryness in the throat and mouth area and aids the body in flushing out toxins that could further weaken your body's resistance while you are down with sore throat.
- **Take plenty of rest.** Taking some time off from physical activities and avoiding situations where you have to speak loudly, will allow your body to repair itself and your voice to get back to its tiptop condition.
- **Gargle regularly.** Use (Hexetidine) Bactidol regularly as your first line of defense against sore throat. Doctors have widely recommended Bactidol for the relief of mouth problems and sore throats.
- **Avoid sweets and alcohol.** These can aggravate sore throat by promoting further inflammation of the throat area. Instead, indulge yourself on fruits. They are rich in vitamin C, which helps build resistance from further infections.

Blood doctors, bankers set conference

THE PHILIPPINE Society of Hematology and Blood Transfusion is holding its annual convention on Sept. 8-10 at the Isla Ballroom of Edsa Shangri-La Hotel in Mandaluyong City.

The three-day convention will be highlighted by a scientific research paper contest, said overall convention chair Dr. Alendry P. Caviles Jr.

Local and foreign speakers will present their findings on such topics as hypercoagulatable states, bone marrow transplantation, comprehensive approach to anemia, state-of-the-art diagnostics and end of life issues.

For details, call Let Hernandez of the PSHBT secretariat at 924-3601 local 1050 or 0917-3739535.

Safe way to keep extra pounds away

OVERWEIGHT people tend to burn more carbohydrates and less fat than leaner people. Green tea helps reduce weight by revving up the body's fat-burning potential and converting stored fat into energy. This process, called thermogenesis, burns calories in the form of body heat. Green tea also reduces absorption of ingested fat.

Career-driven men and women who want to stay fit but don't have time to work out at the gym will find an ally in Austrian beverage Nativa Green Tea by Rauch, which combines all the healthful benefits found in green tea with a crisp, refreshing lemon taste.

Nativa Green Tea helps you lose weight the natural, healthier way by burning off fats that otherwise get stored in your thighs and belly. It is available at leading supermarkets nationwide.

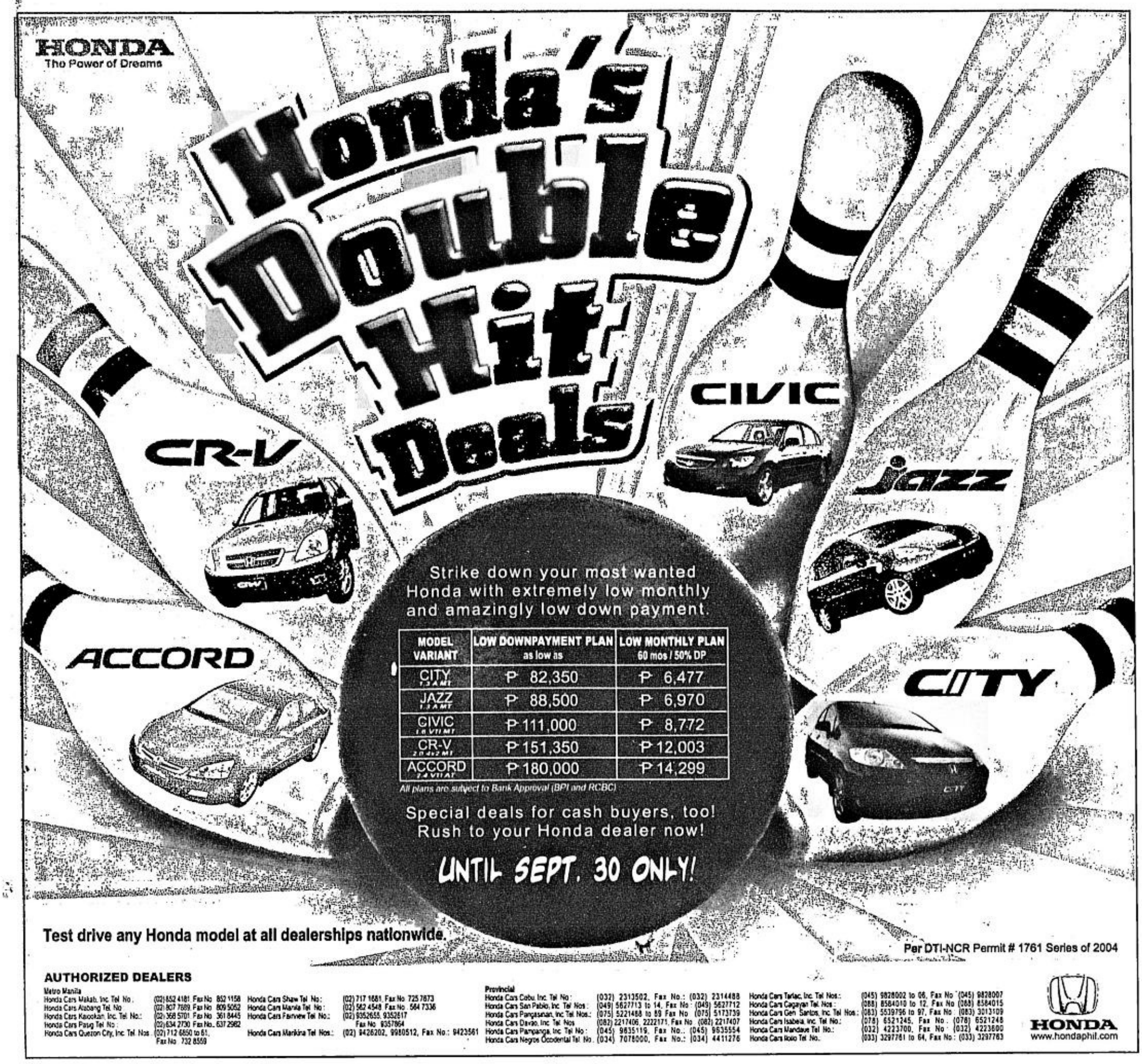
Unesco, L'Oréal make a difference for women in science

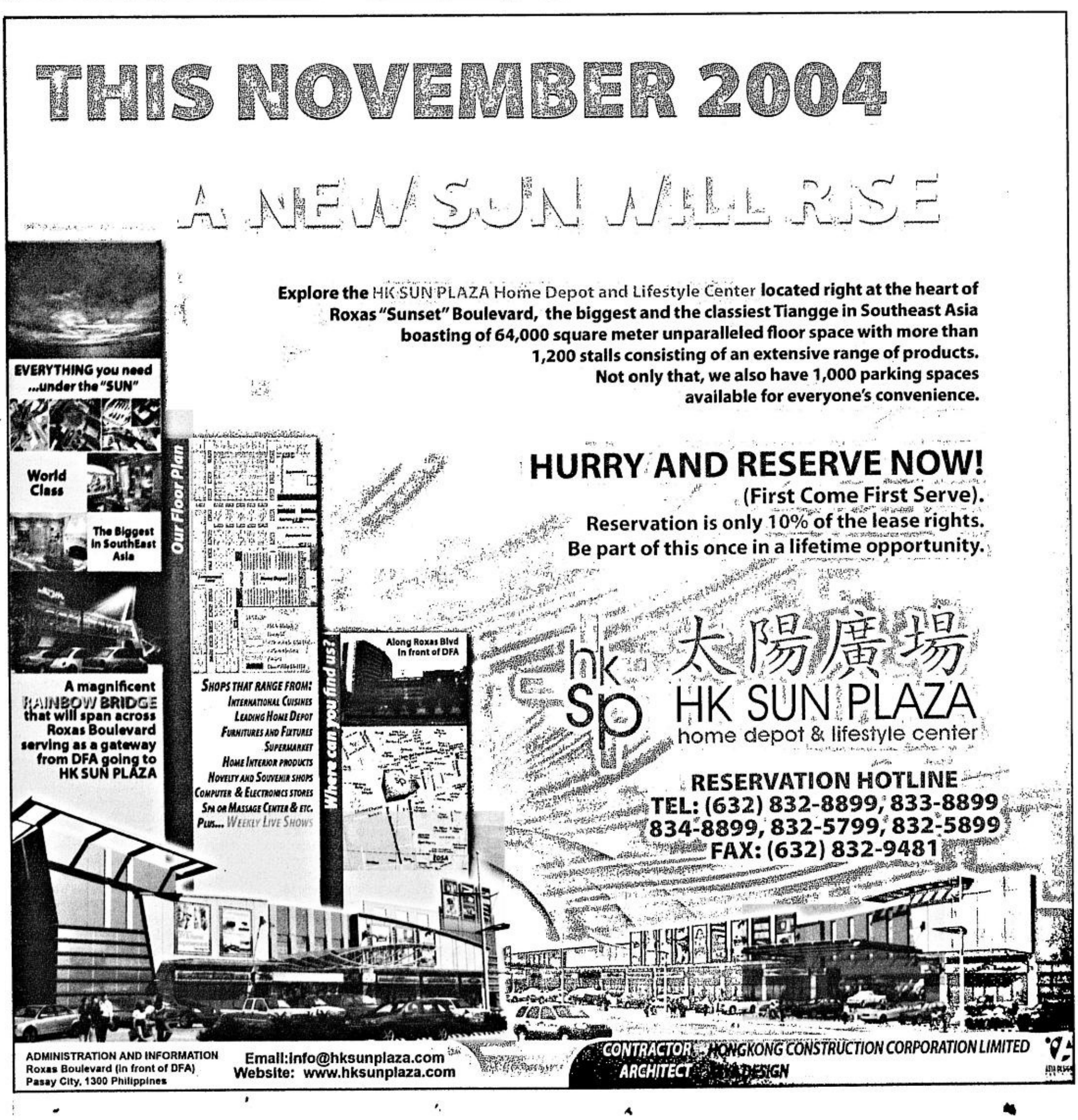
YOUNG women researchers in the life sciences have until Sept. 15 to apply for the Unesco-L'Oréal "For Women in Science" fellowships. These annual international fellowships, with a grant of $20,000, are open to women aged 35 and below who are pursuing research projects at major academic centers around the world at the doctorate or postdoctorate level.

The L'Oréal-Unesco For Women in Science partnership, now in its sixth edition, is a unique example of how the private sector and an intergovernmental institution can work together to recognize the achievements of women scientists and raise the profile of women in science globally. Since the program's creation in 1998, 91 women scientists from 45 countries across the world have been recognized for excellence in research or received encouragement to pursue their careers.

Those interested in applying please log on to the Unesco website at: http://portal. unesco.org/en/ev.php@URL_ID=14633&URL_DO=DO_TOPC& URL_SECTION=201.html or click at the fellowships section at the for-womeninscience.com website.

For more information contact Leica R. Carpo, corporate public relations department, L'Oréal Philippines at 632-0280 or e-mail lcarpo@ph.loreal.com.





Davao brings pork to Luzon

CITY OF SAN FERNANDO—The country's biggest group of meat processors made a breakthrough in addressing pork shortage and rising import costs after it entered into a partnership with hog raisers based in Mindanao.

Officials of the Pampanga Association of Meat Processors (Pampro) recently witnessed the first shipment of pork meat from the Hog Raisers Association of Davao.

The deal, said to be the first province-to-province partnership in the industry, was signed recently after several months of negotiation, said Renato Tayag Jr., Pampro founding president.

Under the agreement, the Nenita Quality Food Corp, which owns a class "AAA" abattoir and meat processing facility in Mindanao, will deliver a minimum of one 20-foot container van of frozen pork to Pampro's 20 members every week.

Each shipment will contain 15 tons of pork cuts or 5 percent of Pampro's weekly supply, the group's president, Prudencio Garcia of Mekeni Food Corp., said in a statement.

"The idea of sourcing local pork meat has been explored in the last three years by the trade and agriculture departments," Garcia said.

"The lack of modern and hygienic slaughterhouses and cold storage facilities, and very unstable live weight price of hogs seemed to be the key stumbling blocks in making this deal possible," he added.

"This opens a new market opportunity for the P80-billion live hog industry," said Jomar Hizon, Pampro executive vice president and vice president of Pampanga's Best.

The hog growing industry, Hizon said, had begun supplying supermarkets and meat processors.

Garcia said the new partnership could lead to a more stable price of pork, help reduce imports and support the local hog growing industry.

"Hopefully, it could result in the export of pork products," he said.

Last May, the meat processing sector experienced shortage as the Department of Agriculture banned imports from Asian countries, mainly South Korea, to prevent the entry of animal diseases.

Although the ban had been lifted and quotas had been resumed, Pampro members continued to grapple with high foreign exchange rates. *Tonette Orejas, PDI Central Luzon Desk*

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 4, 2004

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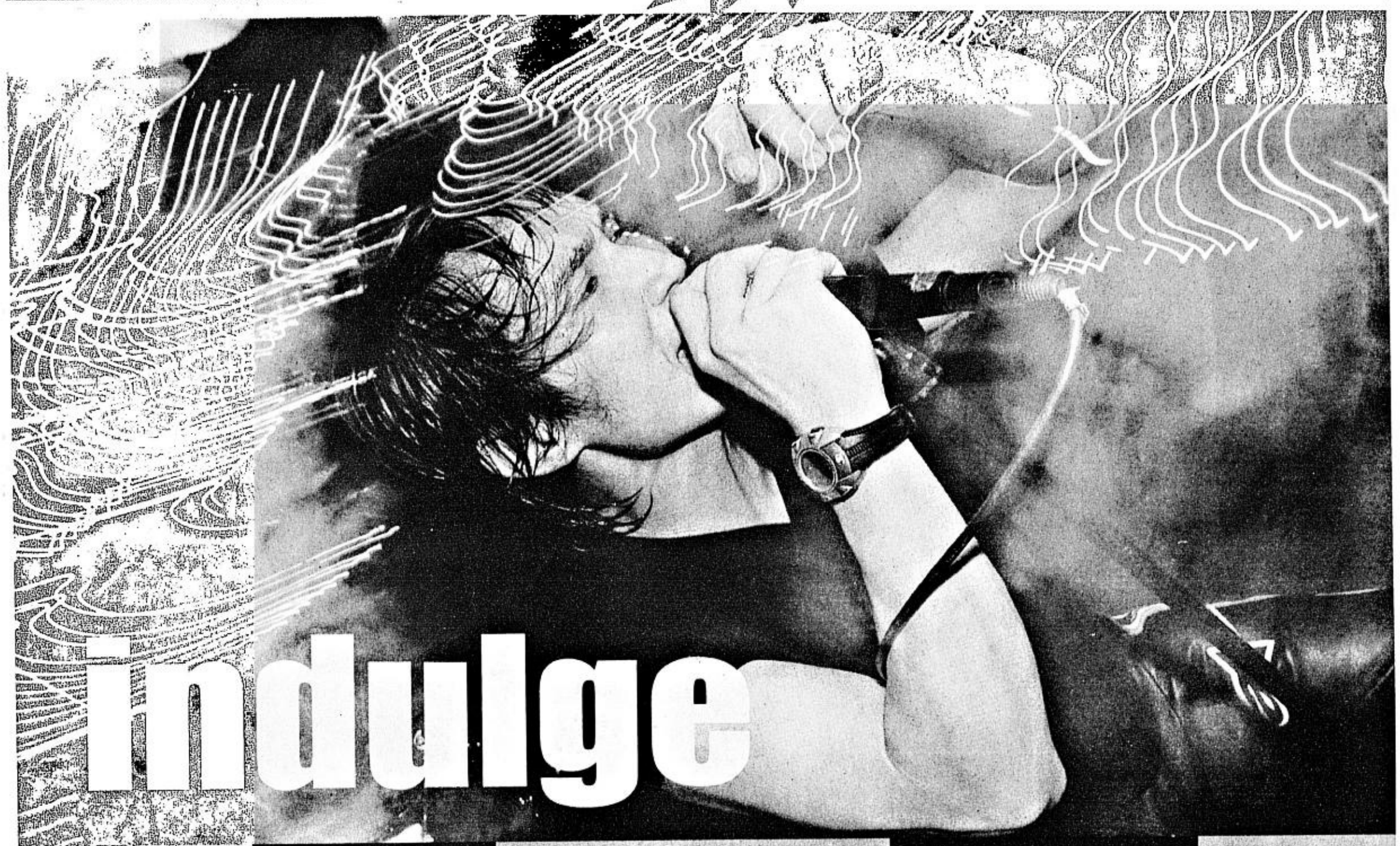


Indulge

A Supahstar diary page C

A Bizarre Bazaar page E1

KC Concepcion is now a secretary page D1

How to be a Stepford Wife page F2

Photography: ANDY MALUCHE
Cover Star: K.O. JONES

112 days to Super X'mas!

Earthquake rocks a neighborhood!

Cause of unusual tremors investigated

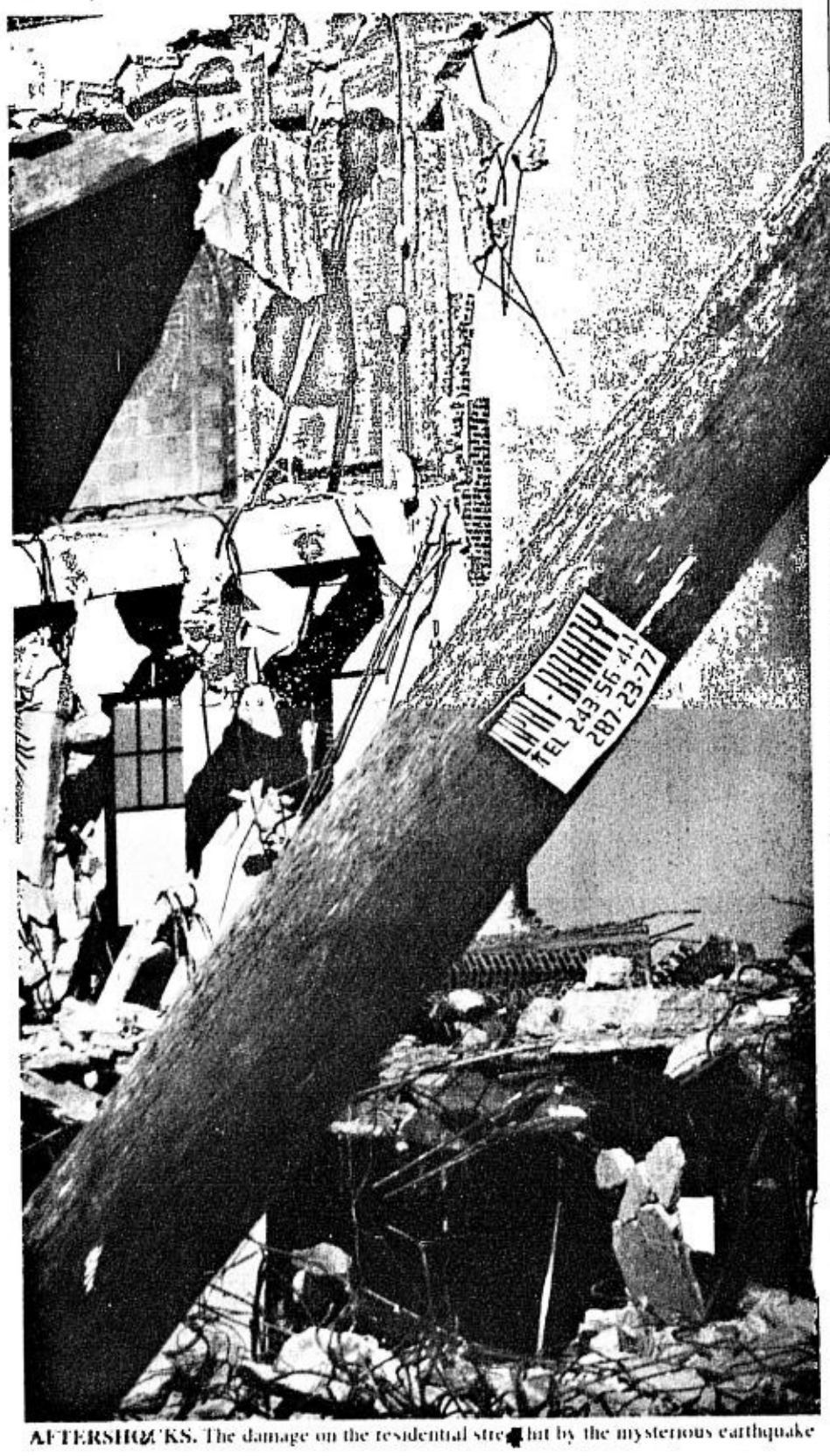
AN UNUSUAL phenomenon occurred yesterday when an earthquake hit only an isolated area of a neighborhood in Manila.

According to eyewitnesses, the tremors were felt only in one building and nearby structures. Most of the damage occurred in the Century Condominium building and an electrical post nearby.

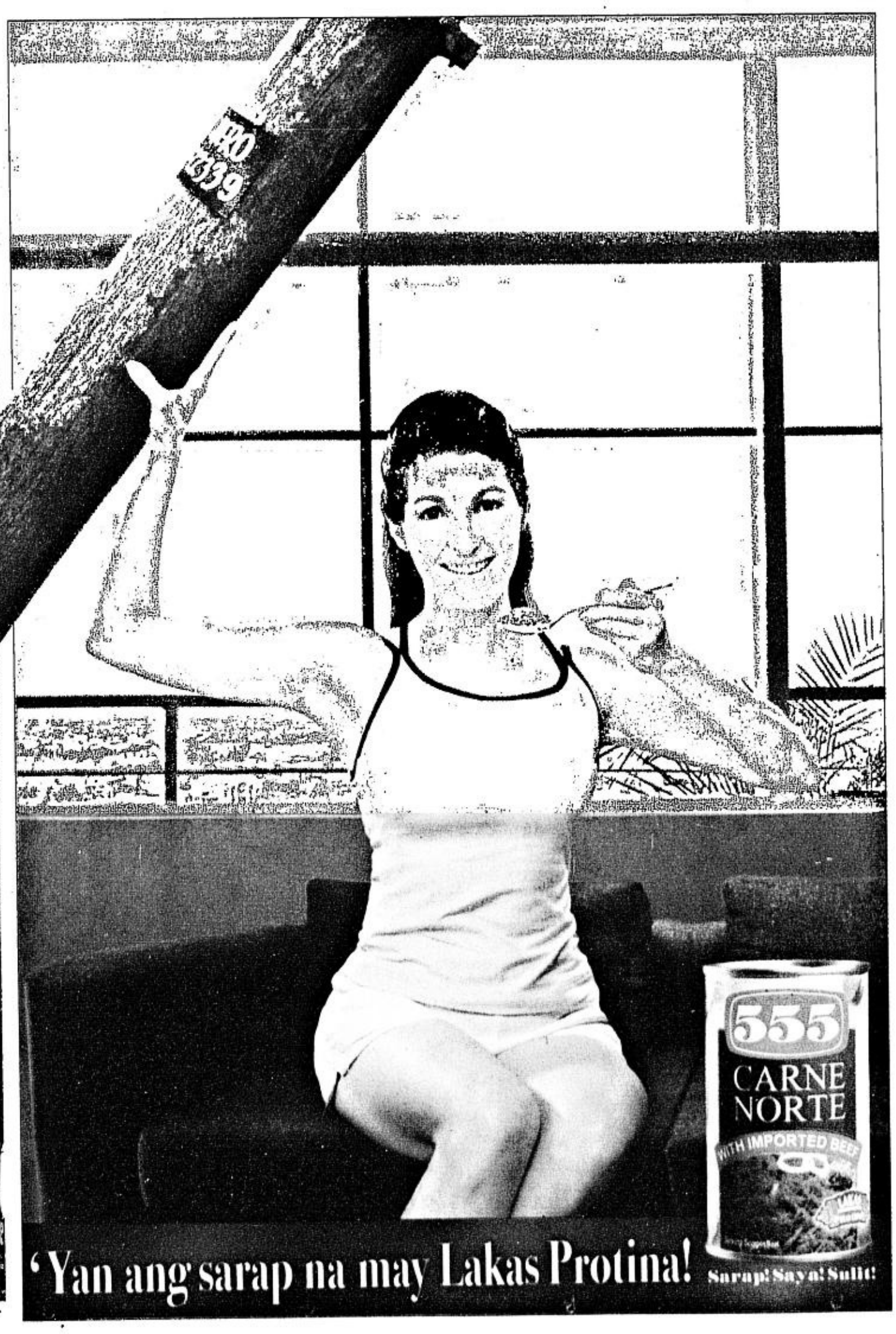
Jackie Lou Blanco, actress and fitness expert who lives in the Century building was shocked to see the damage in the different floors.

"I was home, but I didn't feel the earthquake. Maybe I was too busy eating 555 Carne Norte! I was enjoying it so much because it was so delicious. Plus I was listening to great music the whole time, tapping my feet..."

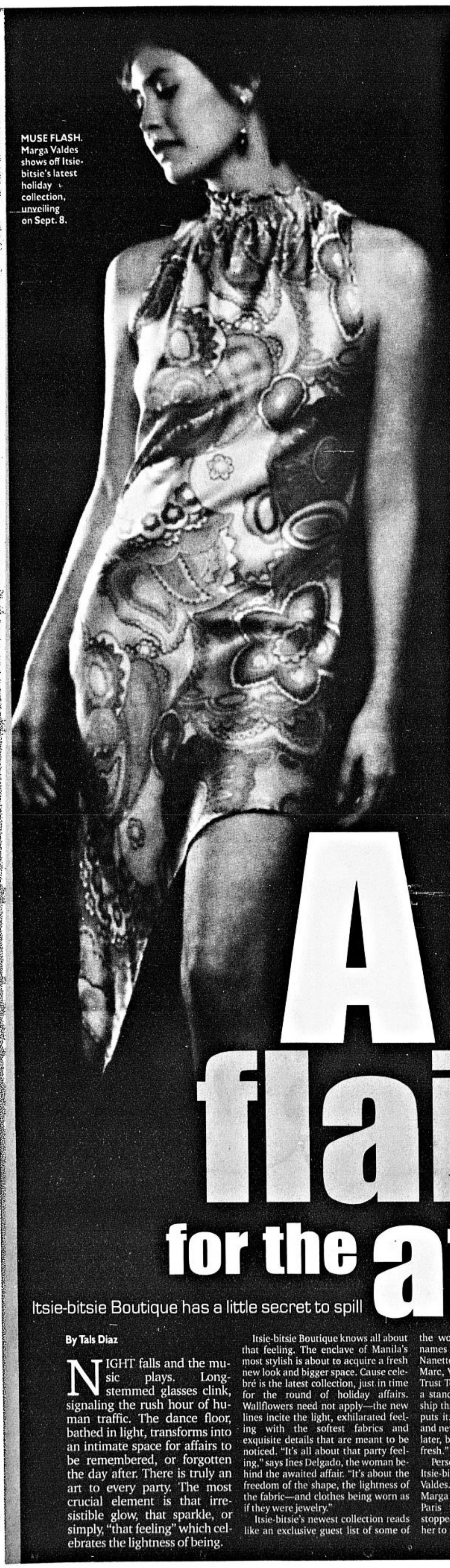
Investigations have shown that the source of the earthquake was highly extraordinary. It seemed to have emanated from the third floor of the building, particularly in the unit where Ms. Blanco lives. Experts on the scene say that a strong force coming from that area caused the tremors and the subsequent damage. Upon further questioning, Ms. Blanco maintained that she was not aware of the earthquake during its occurrence, that indeed she was just eating 555 Carne Norte and tapping her feet to music at that time.



AFTERSHOCKS. The damage on the residential street hit by the mysterious earthquake



'Yan ang sarap na may Lakas Protina!
Sarap! Saya! Sulit!



MUSE FLASH. Marga Valdes shows off Itsie-bitsie's latest holiday collection, unveiling on Sept. 8.

A flair for the affair

Itsie-bitsie Boutique has a little secret to spill

Model/Muse: MARGA VALDES
Photographs: PAOLO PINEDA
Styling: RORIE CARLOS
Makeup: BARBIE CHAN

All jewelry courtesy of
Fe S. Panlilio Jewellers
6750 Ayala Avenue

By Tals Diaz

NIGHT falls and the music plays. Long-stemmed glasses clink, signaling the rush hour of human traffic. The dance floor, bathed in light, transforms into an intimate space for affairs to be remembered, or forgotten the day after. There is truly an art to every party. The most crucial element is that irresistible glow, that sparkle, or simply, "that feeling" which celebrates the lightness of being.

Itsie-bitsie Boutique knows all about that feeling. The enclave of Manila's most stylish is about to acquire a fresh new look and bigger space. Cause celebré is the latest collection, just in time for the round of holiday affairs. Wallflowers need not apply—the new lines incite the light, exhilarated feeling with the softest fabrics and exquisite details that are meant to be noticed. "It's all about that party feeling," says Ines Delgado, the woman behind the awaited affair. "It's about the freedom of the shape, the lightness of the fabric—and clothes being worn as if they were jewelry."

Itsie-bitsie's newest collection reads like an exclusive guest list of some of the world's most sought-after brand names today: Catherine Malandrino, Nanette Lepore, Elie Tahari, Carmen Marc, Valvo, Tashia from London and Trust Toilette from Italy. Every piece is a standout, with a unique workmanship that "transcends seasons," as Ines puts it. "When you buy it, it's trendy and new but it becomes a classic a year later, because it's just so versatile and fresh."

Personifying such subtle elegance is Itsie-bitsie's newest muse, Marga Valdes. A little urban legend has it that Marga was once walking the streets of Paris when Karl Lagerfeld himself stopped her in her tracks, entreating her to model for him. Marga, certainly one of Manila's most beautiful women, declined and walked away. The truth behind this urban legend is, well, it's no legend!

Ines must have better persuasive powers than Lagerfeld. "Marga has a lot of style, plus a freshness and elegance that stands out," she says.

To unveil its new look and bigger shop space, Itsie-bitsie will host an afternoon tea party on Wednesday, Sept. 8. With the exciting collection as focus, it should be no small affair!

Itsie-bitsie Boutique is located at 1755 M. Adriatico, Malate. Visit their website at www.itsie-bitsie.com, or call 522-8592 for details.

FEARLESS DUO. Myrza Sison and JR Isaac

GO, JOHNNY GO! Coleen Niguidula and GP Reyes

JUNIOR NOCTURNALS. Franco Villanueva, Joleon Tanada, Mark Villar, Francis Reyes and Julian Coseteng

BLACK BATCH 04. The men who make the night hotter. Erik Cua, Albert Besa, Mark Villar, Louie Ysmael, Jay Server and Francis Reyes

Seven deadly scenes

ERIK Cua and Jon Herrera do the 'Tim' pout

CUTESY TWO. Mark Villar and Vanessa Mayuga

ART AND FASHION. Ronald Pasion and Tin Magsaysay

NIGHT GODS. Manolet Dario, Nicky [illegible] and Boomby Martel

TWO-GETHER AGAIN. Erin Campos and Marco De Guzman

CHAMPION PAIR. Derek Santos and Reb Disini

By Tim Yap

WHO says nocturnal Manila has lost its groove?

With partyphiles like Jay Server of Capone's, Beaver Lopez of Teak, Mark Villar and Jason Webb of Yaku, Erik Cua of Temple, Albert Besa of Ponti and, of course, Louie Ysmael, nightlife in these parts will always be hot and happening.

Last week at V bar, Johnnie Walker paid tribute to these seven men who continue to define and invigorate Manila nightlife.

For these people, life is to be lived in seven words: "Fun, fun, fun ... party, party, party on!"

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Searching for a Supahstar

Across the country with the wackiest scouts

By Lizette Claudio

I'M NOT one to easily get hooked on talent searches. Take away Simon Cowell from "American Idol," and I think the wildly popular show will be quickly downgraded to just-another-search status, simple and forgettable. With all the similar searches on television right now, I can't tell one from the other. Hopefuls audition and perform, they get humiliated or praised, then they win or they lose. That's about it.

Along comes MTV Supahstar—D' Supah Search, which premiered on MTV Philippines this week. It might be easy to push aside, except that, thanks to a wacky cast of characters, sidesplitting moments, and unexpected twists, it's far from typical.

For nearly the entire month of August, I went across the country—Cebu, Davao, Baguio and Manila—with the Supahstar cast and crew as part of my job in MTV.

We spent long audition days with a talented and easygoing trio of celebrity casting directors: rap star Andrew E., soul queen Radha, and Super! supahman himself, Tim Yap.

MTV veejays Sarah Meier and Cindy Kurleto joined us for a couple of hosting stints, and resident funnyman Tim Tayag provided nonstop entertainment throughout the search, as MTV Supahstar's supah host. If there was one thing that everyone in the party had in common, it was a keenness to produce a talent search and reality show unlike no other. And if, while at it, we got to pig out, party and laugh endlessly, then that was just supah!

We spent so much time together, we bonded over a shared love for food (no one was allowed to go on a diet), music (we all seemed to believe we were talented singing supahstars as well), jokes (we put together a whole collection), drinks (hot choco, fruit shakes, San Miguel Beer and energy drinks that kept us awake) and shopping (clothes, food, even back scratchers from Baguio). I learned that Andrew E loved pansit, Tim Tayag liked fuji apples, everyone needed potato chips, and there was always room for drinks, dessert and Chickenjoy on Cebu Pacific!

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PIRATES OF PIRATA Unwinding at our fave Davao hangout

CLASSIC MOMENT Carol Ferrer gets some grub

SUPAHSTAR producer Christian Encabo hasn't slept ever

TREME SEUP Mr. Suave rt Quebral and Supahsquad

NON-SMOKERS LOUNGE We did a Supah tour of all the SM Supahmalls in the Philippines

CELL PHONE SNAPPARAZZI Sarah-stalkers at Vudu Lounge

PUT SOME C IN YOUR LIFE Get a dose of MTV VJ Cindy Kurleto

TWICE THE FUN Trivia time at Cebu Pacific

AFTER PARTY SMB play music play sports

I'M READY FOR MY CLOSEUP Scoping out the competition in Cebu

CASTING COUCH Dall Baratbat on who makes the cut

ealized that permanent pens should be away from our producer, Christian, and one of my co-workers was a deadringer former Universal Motion Dancer. Also, Tim Yap could spend hours at Red Box g the videoke thing, especially if the line- ncluded Spandau Ballet's "Gold." One of e days, Tim Tayag would break into the c scene, with his boy-band moves and e voice lessons from Radha.

y, it could happen! As the Cebu "audi- es" said: "Just confidence!"

acky behind-the-scene moments aside, the action happened on stage. Needless to say, ncountered a wide array of characters, in- ng a Waldo (of "Where's Waldo") look- , a scary screamer with fake Spock ears, a stent contestant who auditioned in two different places, and an underage but overly aggressive Andrea del Rosario fanatic. They were among over 400 wannabe supahstars battling for a recording contract with Warner Music Philippines, a launching concert, CD and an MTV music video. Some could sing, some could dance, some could rap, but some just couldn't do any of these. But they tried anyway, hoping to become an MTV Supahstar.

MTV Supahstar airs on MTV Philippines every Wednesday at 7 p.m., with replays on Sunday at 6 p.m. and Tuesday at 3 p.m. In Mega Manila, MTV Philippines is on Channel 41 for free TV or non-cable subscribers, Sky Cable and Home Cable Subscribers. In Cebu and Davao, MTV Philippines is on Channel 29. Call your local cable operator for channel designation.

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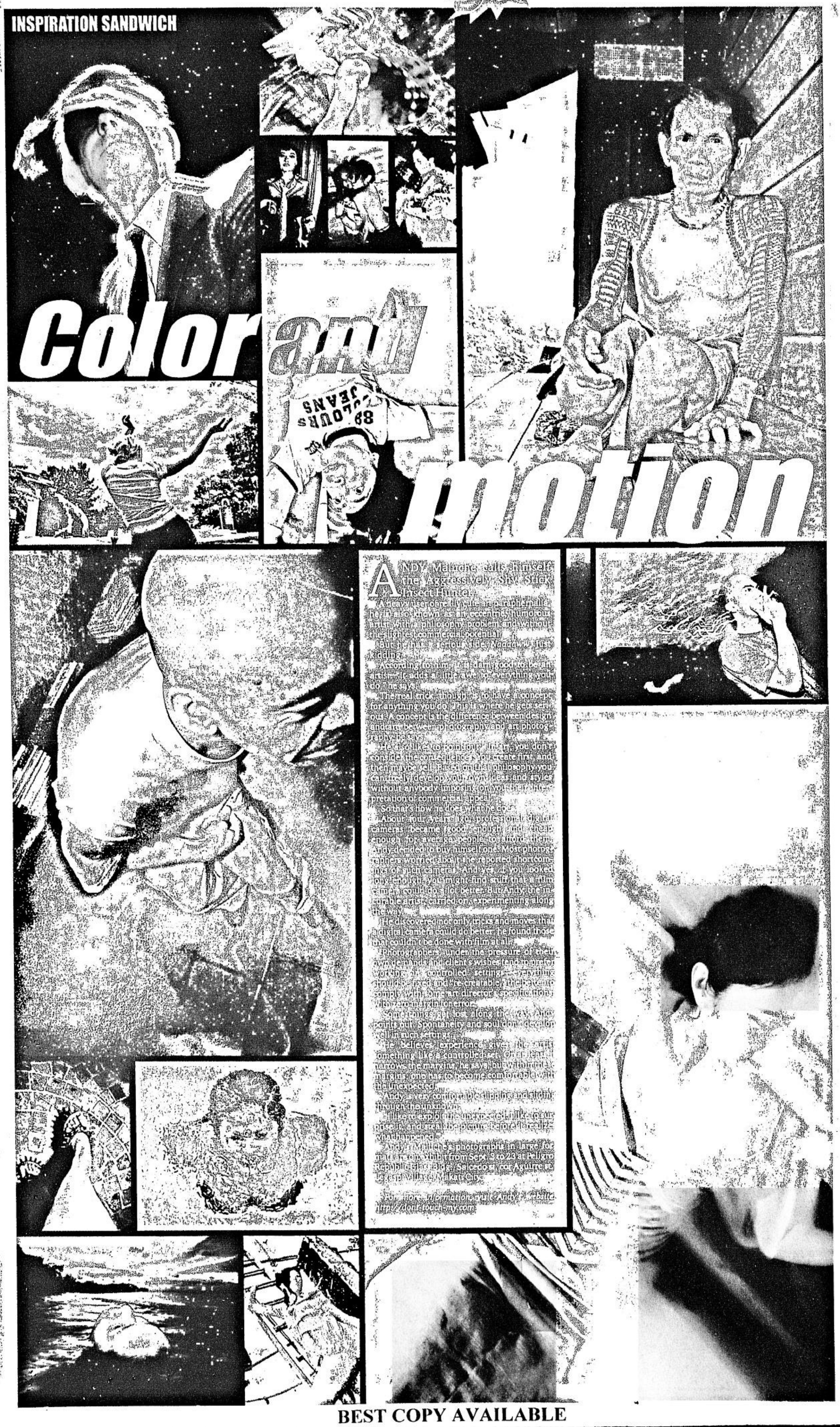
INSPIRATION SANDWICH

color and motion



ANDY Maltche calls himself the Aggressively Shy Stick Insect Hunter.

A heavy user of really quite eccentric paraphernalia, he is also known as an eccentric, humorous artist with a philosophy problem and without the lightest commercial sentimental.

But he has a serious side. Nagdadrowing lang siya.

According to him, it's darn good to be an artist. It's like a little law of everything you do the way.

The real trick, though, is to have a concept for anything you do. That's where he gets serious. A concept is the difference between design and art, between photography and art photography, he says.

He's so like to contrary. In art, you don't consider the consequences. You create first and then maybe sell. Based on that philosophy, you can freely develop your own ideas and styles without anybody imposing on you an interpretation of commercial appeal.

So that's how he does what he does.

About four years ago, professional digital cameras became good enough and cheap enough for average people to afford them. Andy decided to buy himself one. Most photographers worried about the reported shortcomings of digital cameras. And yet, if you looked hard enough, you might find stuff that a film camera could do a lot better. But Andy, the intrepid artist, carried on experimenting along the way.

He discovered not only tricks and moves that a digital camera could do better; he found those that couldn't be done with film at all.

Photographers, under the pressure of their own demands and clients' wishes, tend to prefer working in controlled settings — everything should be perfect and, preferably, they have to comply with someone's direction specifications with zero margin for error.

Something gets lost along the way, Andy points out. Spontaneity and soul don't develop all in such settings.

He believes experience gives the artist something like a controlled set. On a grand, narrow, the margin, he says, but within that margin, one has to become comfortable with the unexpected.

Andy loves complicated illusions and tricks through the unknown.

He enjoys exploring the unexpected, like a kid in a candy store, and tries to plan, capture results that happened.

Andy's Maltche's photographs in large format are on display from Sept. 8 to 26 at Pelgno Republic Gallery, Bldg. Salcedo cor. Aguirre St., Legazpi Village, Makati City.

For more information, visit Andy's website http://dont-touch-my.com

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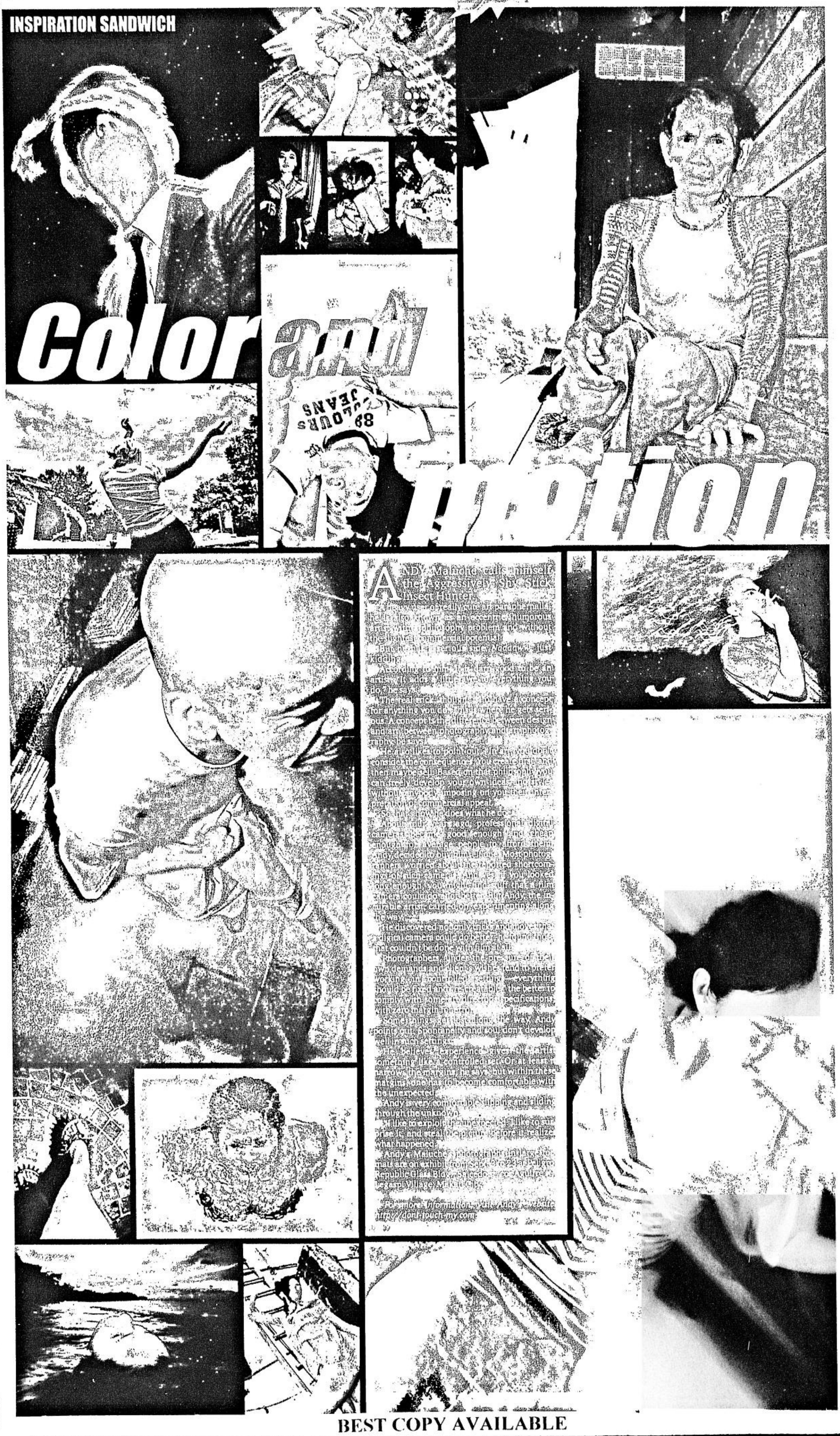
INSPIRATION SANDWICH

color and Passion



ANDY Maluche calls himself the aggressively shy stick insect hunter.

[illegible]

Andy's Maluche photographs will be on exhibition from [illegible] at the Republic Glass Building, [illegible] Village, Makati City.

For more information, visit Andy's website at http://dontfeelmy.com

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COFFEE, tea, or me? Lines from a blind date.

Say what?!

Lemon-aide

Giselle Segovia

LET NO one contradict me—though I'm quite certain a lot of people will. I honestly think the greatest romance movie of all time was made in 1989.

"Say Anything," featuring Ione Skye as the intelligent, gorgeous Diane Court, and John Cusack as the all-too-perfect Lloyd Dobler, still holds the key to love's deepest, if also its most mundane, mysteries. In the tradition of the excellently mastered 1980s coming-of-age flicks—"St. Elmo's Fire," "Sixteen Candles," "Pretty in Pink," "The Breakfast Club"—I believe this one caps that great era, with the bonus of Cameron Crowe's stamp of genius.

Those who do not agree with me will probably regard the movie as somewhat plain. The plot holds no frills, no colossally daunting complications. It's just the story of a boy and a girl falling in love. Yet in its simplicity, it is heartening and funny, and it flawlessly captures all the feeling and frenzy that two people go through when they come by their first big romance. It is outstanding.

In this wet and cold weather, I implore everyone to set aside a day to watch their favorite romantic flicks. If you haven't seen "Say Anything," take action and rent the DVD, A.S.A.P.

Saturday, September 4

Community is back to deliver the usual and much sought-after "house music and beyond." "Assorted Candies" features DJs Adrian Cuenca and Stevie T. at 10 p.m., only at Azzurro Bistro and Lounge, Somerset Place, Aguirre St., Legaspi Village, Makati City.

WHEN you say nothing at all...

Sunday, September 5

Try and find a copy (purchase one, if possible!) of the greatest romantic movie ever made—"Say Anything!" Written and directed by critically acclaimed Cameron Crowe ("Vanilla Sky," "Almost Famous"), the film also boasts of a stellar soundtrack. Peter Gabriel's "In Your Eyes" is unforgettable. Watch it! Please!

Monday, September 6

Clio Award recipient Carlos Filart, an advertising executive turned artist, has 12 works on display at the Galerie Joaquin of The Podium mall, San Miguel Avenue, Ortigas Center. "Kimono: Clothing the Use" presents paintings done in mixed media such as gouache and acrylic. The collection is a tribute to the female form. For inquiries, call 634-7954 or 723-9253.

Tuesday, September 7

"Soundtrip" at Temple Bar and Restaurant features top acoustic bands playing soulful, steady sounds for a perfectly quiet night. Best to bring someone along for good conversation. For details, call 757-4813. Ring them up.

Wednesday, September 8

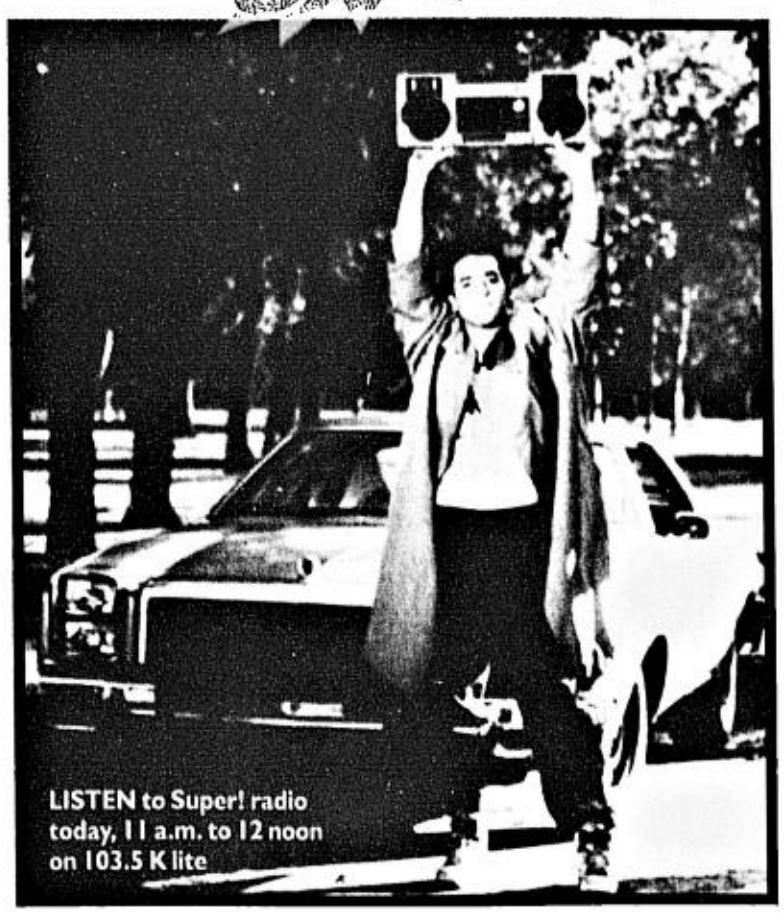
Manic, paranoid, obsessive-compulsive shoppers may want to spend the eighth day of the first "ber" month of the year scouting for Christmas gifts. However, this can also be a movie day because "Dodgeball," another motion picture starring Ben Stiller, the "Tom Cruise of comedy" (in my own personal opinion that is), opens in metro theaters. Get ready for a serious laugh trip. Check sureseats.com for reservations.

Thursday, September 9

Ever since Dream Bar wound up its "Decadance Party Series," people have been miserable with longing. Where, oh where, can one come upon something akin to the once beloved? Club Centro in Libis offers just the thing via its "24-Hour Party People." New Wave music will be played all night for diehards of 1980s hits. Club Centro is located at 888 E. Rodriguez Jr. Ave., Quezon City.

Friday, September 10

Cultured music is the order of the night as the Philippine Philharmonic Orchestra opens its 21st season under Eugene Castillo's baton with "Coming Home," featuring soprano Camille Lopez Molina. The Philippine premiere of Angela Pena's "Trinity: A Symphonic Cycle" will open the concert at the CCP's Tanghalang Nicanor Abelardo. Call 832-1125 loc. 1881-1806 or 832-3878 for inquiries.



LISTEN to Super! radio today, 11 a.m. to 12 noon on 103.5 K lite

KISS the girl

The word for the bored:

"I don't want to sell anything, buy anything, or process anything as a career. I don't want to sell anything bought or processed, or buy anything sold or processed, or process anything sold, bought, or processed, or repair anything sold, bought, or processed. You know, as a career, I don't want to do that."
—Lloyd Dobler (John Cusack), Say Anything (1989)

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on Sept. 10, 2004 Friday at Cinema 10 SM Megamall 7:30 p.m.

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13 going on 30

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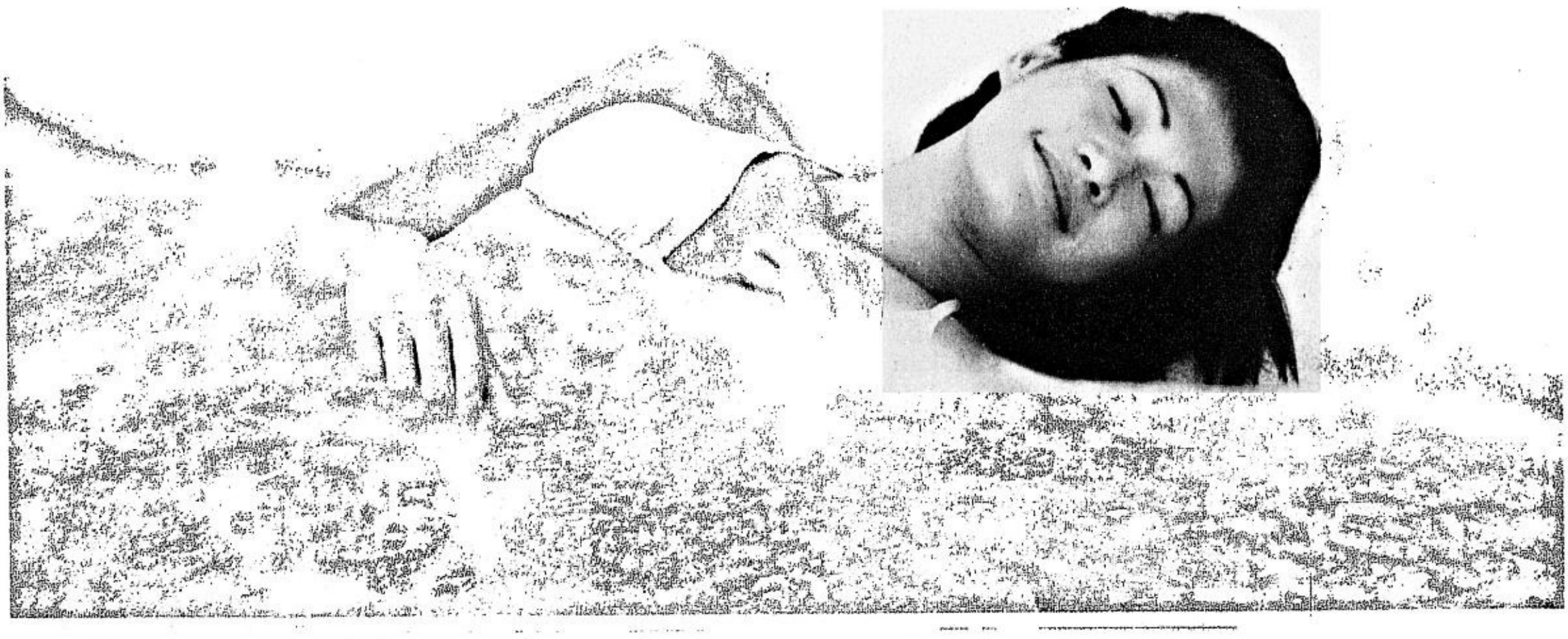

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Per DTI-NCR Permit No. AI-555, Series of 2004

The Super! list

Reality show teams, hot South Africans, and 8 other pop secrets that we want to spill this week

Age against the machine

Gino de la Paz

1 MTV's 'Pimp My Ride'

Just when all you *playas* thought your '87 Sentra was on its way to the scrap heap, along blazes rapper Xzibit and an out-of-the-box smash show called "Pimp My Ride." Tired hatchbacks not only turn into tricked out sexy beasts, but become works of customized art as well.

("Pimp My Ride" airs on Thursdays at 10 p.m., Sundays at 9:30 p.m., Wednesdays at 1:30 p.m. on MTV.)

2 Charlize Theron as Aeon Flux

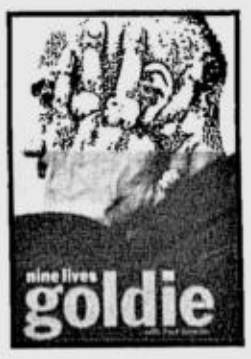
From an ugly murderer in "Monster," Hollywood's favorite South African hottie Charlize Theron is now set to play the sexy title character in "Aeon Flux," an animated series that called MTV home in the nineties. Filming in Berlin was temporarily suspended, however, when Charlize suffered an unspecified injury while doing a wire-hanging action sequence. It's back to guns and tight costumes—not to mention a high-protein, low-carb diet—once she recovers.

3 'Popular'—The Complete First Season DVD

If the names Mary Cherry, Brooke McQueen and Josh Ford sound familiar, it's because they're characters from the sorely missed WB high school dramedy "Popular." But Kennedy High's queen-bees-and-wannabes story arc lives on as the first season DVD set hits the streets on Sept. 21, 2004.

4 Nine Lives –Goldie

As a drum'n'bass icon, Goldie is a total original, taking the sped-up drum breaks from the British underground to international ears. As the subject of an unconventional autobiography, Goldie is a shapeshifting inspiration. Together with author Paul Gorman, he documents his journey to cult superstardom through photos, collages and heartfelt text, that together make "Nine Lives" such a fascinating page-turner.



5 'Coupling'

Most people will automatically call "Coupling" the British "Friends," but that would be a cop out. BBC's "Coupling" dips more into "Seinfeld" territory with its insanely addictive portrayal of sex, vexed exes and excesses. If you're sick of American sitcoms, the show's point-of-view narratives might just be your cup of Earl Grey tea.

(Catch "Coupling" on Star World every Saturday at 10 p.m.)

6 Metrosumosexual

With the inevitable demise of the so-called metrosexual comes a new and more self-deprecating version of the modern man. Coined by Men's Health columnist Joe Queenan, "metrosumosexual" refers to men who don't mind people thinking they're fat. Now if only there were a female equivalent.

7 'Everybody's Gotta Learn Sometimes,' Beck

The Michel Gondry-directed feature "Eternal Sunshine of the Spotless Mind" gave a new smoky twist to the words "déjà vu." Not surprisingly, the accompanying soundtrack had the same hazy power. As Joel Barish (Jim Carrey) drives around in his beat up Corolla, a familiar voice amps up the melancholy and captures the moment in all its desperate glory. The melodic murmur apparently belongs to Beck, who is back in the radar with his brilliant remake of an 1980 hit by Korgis. Download it now.

8 Video for The Streets' 'Dry Your Eyes'

First came Britpop. Now comes Brithop. In this music video masterpiece by Danish director Edvard Wood, Mike Skinner, aka The Streets, finds that man's best friend is the only companion for a lonely lad who is always thinking about his broken relationship. We've all been there, right?

9 Colin and Christie from 'The Amazing Race 5'

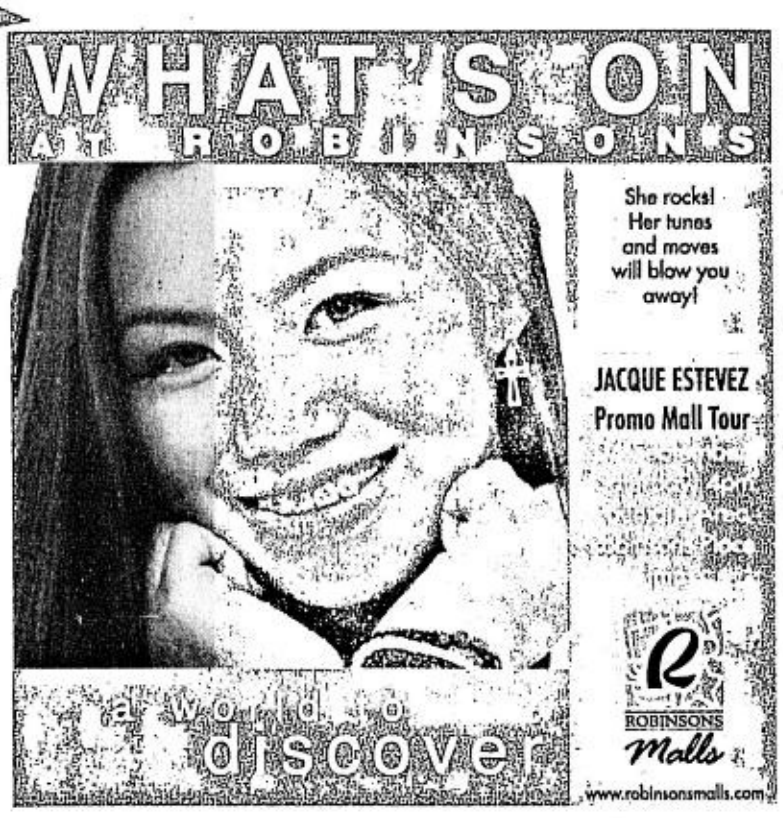
I thought that all the monsters in this show answered to the names Charla and Mirna, but boy, was I wrong. Barry Watson look-alike Colin became the stuff of small-screen legend when he unleashed his psycho persona in Tanzania, refusing to pay the cabbie full fare just because their taxi was rolling on a "donut," or a flat tire, among other things. Nonetheless, he remains one half of my favorite team because a) Chip looks too much like Hootie, b) the models secretly worship the devil, and c) the other teams just suck.

10 Busted vs. McFly

Busted echo Bill Haley with "Thunderbirds Are Go," while McFly channel Chuck Berry on "That Girl." At least in Britain, pop seems to have come full circle as these two bonafide bands hammer out hits with a charming friskiness and an eternal summer vibe.

SATURDAY Super

KC UPDATES us about her life in the city of cool.



Secretary in the City

SO FAR, it has been hard work and great fun working for the TV company Propager, which made the intelligent decision (I need to stress that) to hire me as

KC Concepcion

their secretary. My sked had been changed to a 10 to 6 (although "9 to 5" sounds better). I work hard (not), make a lot of phone calls to editors of important channels, write a lot of e-mails, put on lots of different accents (including Mauritian) and take a lot of coffee breaks (yes, Starbucks is finally in France). Work is going well, especially because of the very helpful advice from some of the greatest friends in the world who bother to pull me out of the darkness! I am pretty successful BECAUSE OF those who share some wisdom and those who share what they pretend is wisdom, and also those who are honest enough not to share any wisdom because they frankly do not feel that they have any.

The other day, I was receiving order forms from around the globe. Our reports are always free of cost and free of broadcasting restrictions for the networks we contact because we are funded by the EC. Cool, huh?

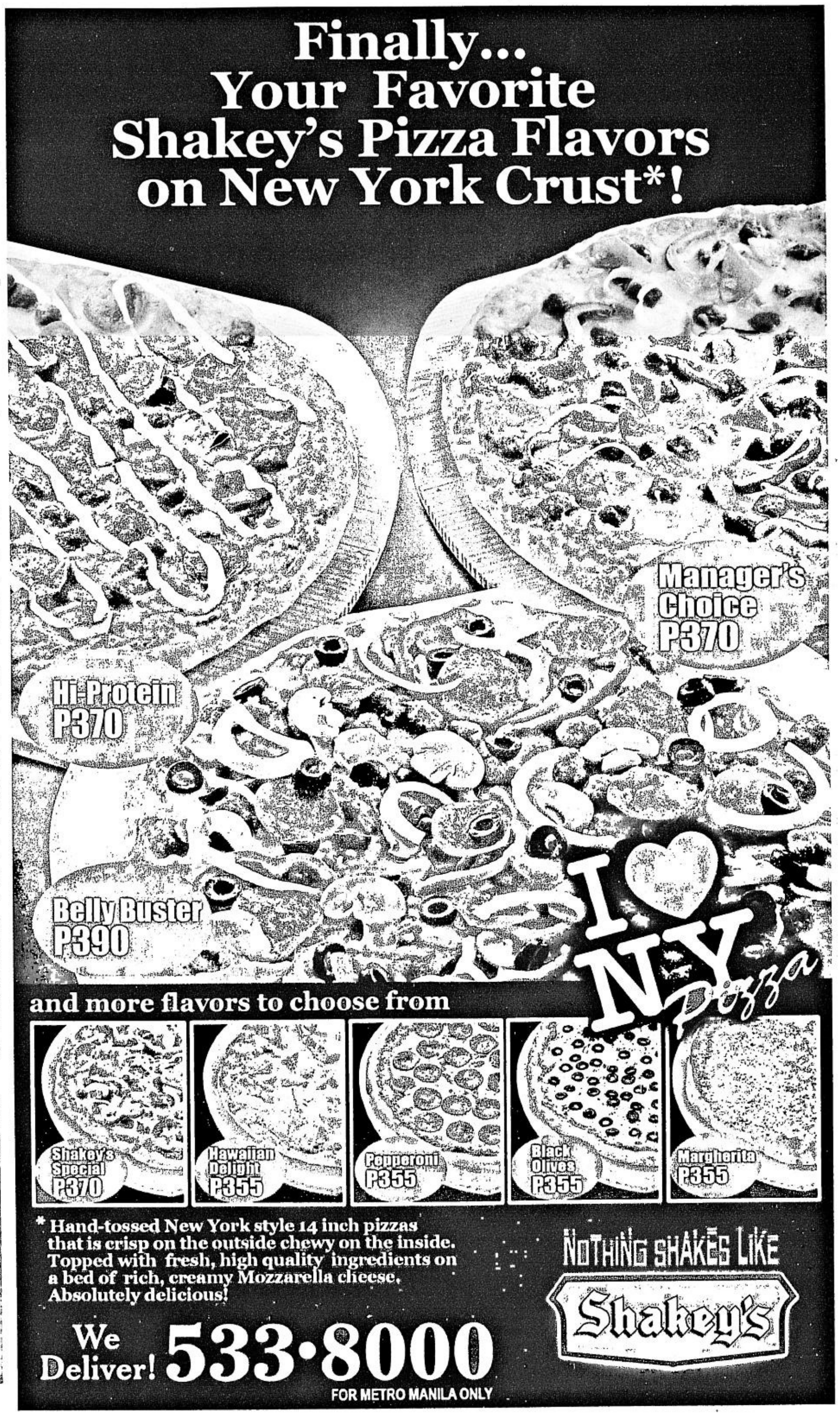
Well... to make the story a bit more interesting, I was assigned countries like Denmark, Spain, the Netherlands, Belgium, the Czech Republic, Cyprus, Germany and Ireland. I helped to catch up on some calls on the evening shift, calls that involved US channels such as CNN, the Discovery Channel and ABC, as well as CBS. TRIP!!!

In my Europe list there was also COSMOPOLITAN Spain and I talked to an editor-in-chief about our terrorism report and he was, like, "Well, it's great because you see, we focus only on lovely things, we focus on human relations and sex."

Also, it's interesting 'coz the US channels have this way of being extra meticulous about details including, "Where is the tape now, as we speak?" *Ngeks. Pero* standards *talaga nila kakaiba!* Sometimes the person you'd just been talking to on the phone, *biglang maririnig mo sa* radio (the sounds they play when they put you on hold) when calling a different channel. Weird *talaga* ha ha! *Sa* list *ko naman,* funny sometimes. I called a channel and the guy said this to me: "SPEAK ONLY SLOVAK."

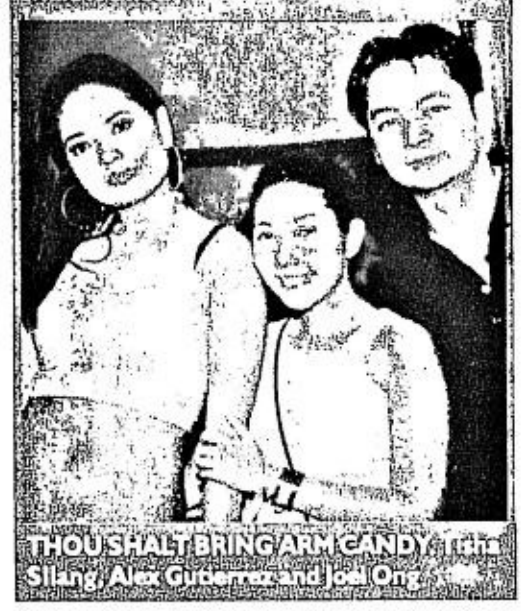
My darling babes... do you speak Slovak?

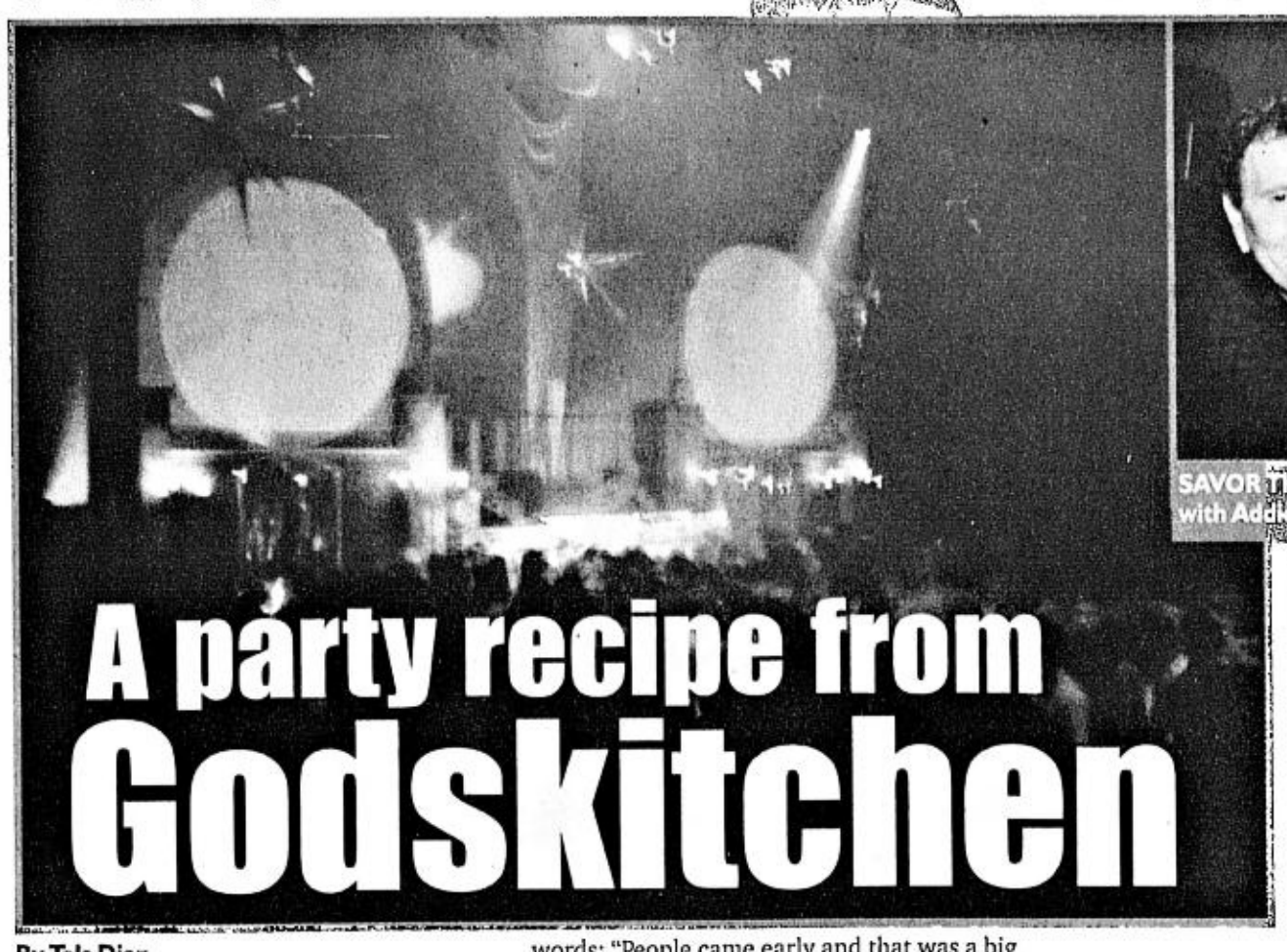
DIFFERENT accents, one Filipina



TURN UP THE HEAT

I AM THE DJ YOUR GOD, thou shalt mix while it's hot


THOU SHALT BRING ARM CANDY Tiffa Silang, Alex Gutierrez and Joell Ong



A party recipe from Godskitchen

By Tals Diaz

SAVOR THE SMORGAS-BORGY Maurice Arcache with Addict endorsers Tim Yap and Borgy Manotoc

THROW IN SOME LOVIN' SPOONFUL OF SWEETIES Anna Cruz, Joanna Ferrero

KISS THE COOK Yes, the DJ does [illegible]

ENJOY THE SINGLE SERVINGS Dorch Palmer, Jacin Fowler and Patrick Garcia

PRE-HEATING.

Darkness fell, the winds blew, and the rain poured early on in the night, but no *force majeure* was about to stop a heated-up phalanx of party-goers from swinging through the doors of Godskitchen. Outside the NBC Tent, a happily mixed and mismatched after-nightlife set formed snaking lines. Music is a magnet that pulls heavenly bodies, devilish rogues, cherubic teens and Beelzeboppers into crowded spaces. There were the usual stiletto-heeled girls ready to condemn their feet to first degree murder on the dance floor. Thank God there were also people in their comfiest sneakers and flipflops—smartly following commandment number one in the doctrine of dancing!

Mixing and steaming

It seems God is still a deejay, especially judging from the likes of Bigfish's catch of the day, Tuck Cheah, who steamed up the pre-midnight crowd with some hot mixes off the turntable. Remixed versions of classic tunes and Latin grooves whetted appetites. People buzzed about happily, faces mimicking exclamation points each time a song slipped into another in hyper-kinetic beats. In Tuck's own words: "People came early and that was a big improvement. The way you connect to the deejay, that's really important!"

Ready to fry

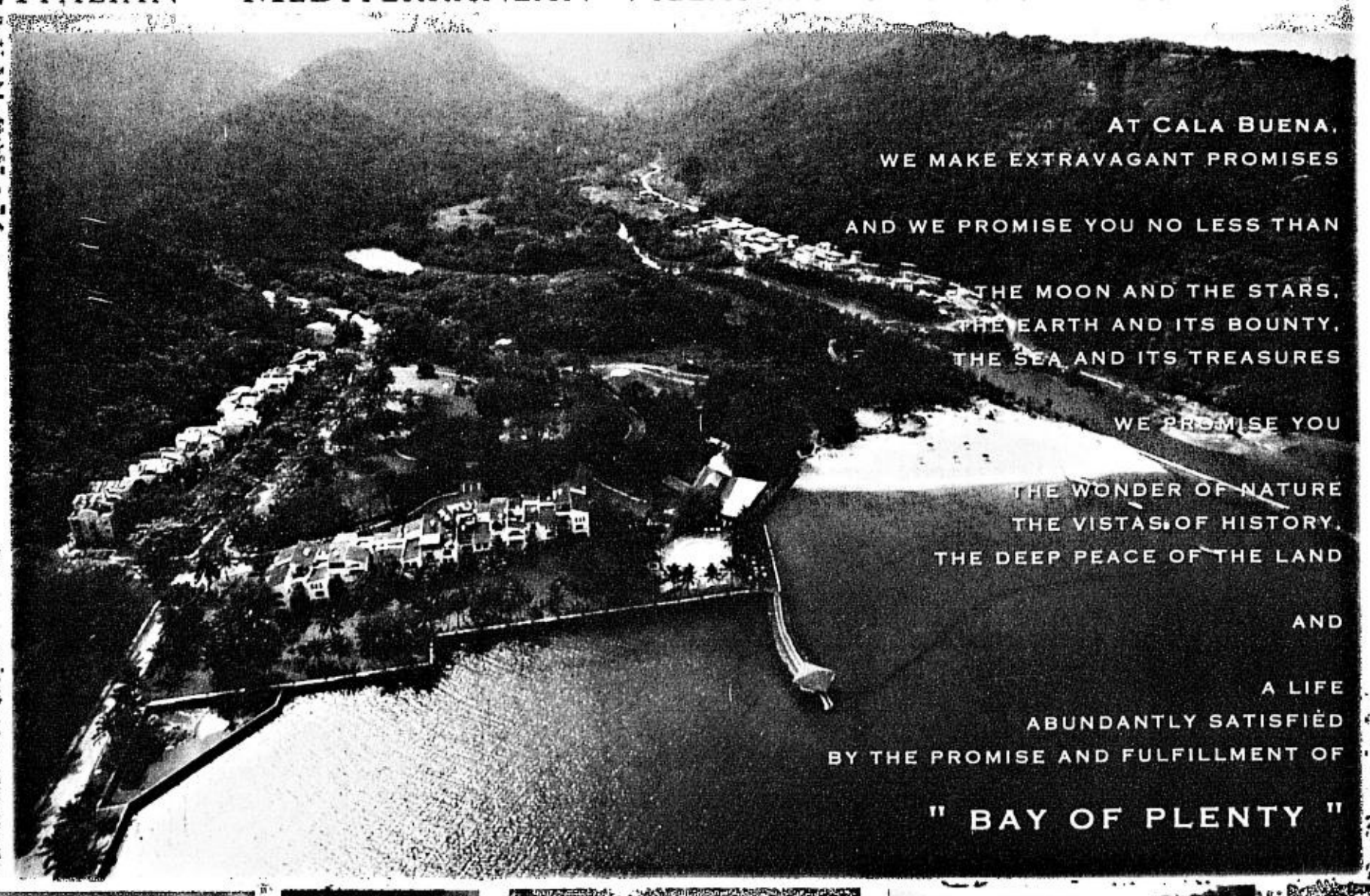
The party went on high gear after midnight, as an oiled-up and sweat-soaked crowd peppered with confetti and falling silver stars anticipated the entry of the United Kingdom's DJ 007 Fleming. Ecstatic faces were illuminated by the light of glowsticks—how very 1997! In the darkest corners were the deep-fried dancers enjoying the infinite music played in the private parties of their inner minds. When DJ 007 Fleming finally got onstage, he was greeted by a sea of red eyes and raised fists. As if commanding them to dance, the deejay divine turned up the volume with trance music from another dimension. Some tequila-soaked angels up front kept him amused, screaming his name until he smiled at them in acknowledgement.

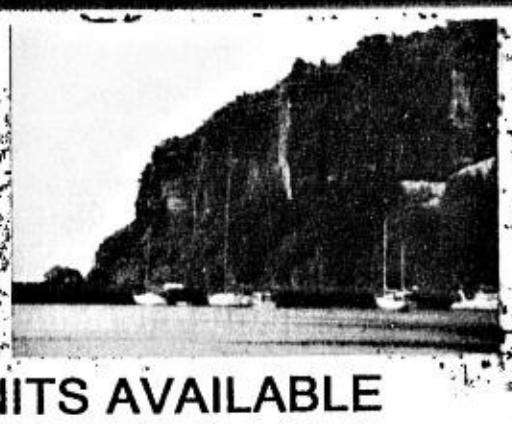
Serve while hot

He played on until 5:30 in the morning. His judgment on his first Manila stint? In his own words, he was very pleased.

Next in line for Manila's party-hungry set—get ready for some just desserts as Bigfish serves up Hed Kandi next month. Let's count our blessings!

LAS CASAS DE CALA BUENA
ITALIAN - MEDITERRANEAN VILLAS AT CAYLABNE BAY RESORT





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	870.00	1,085.00
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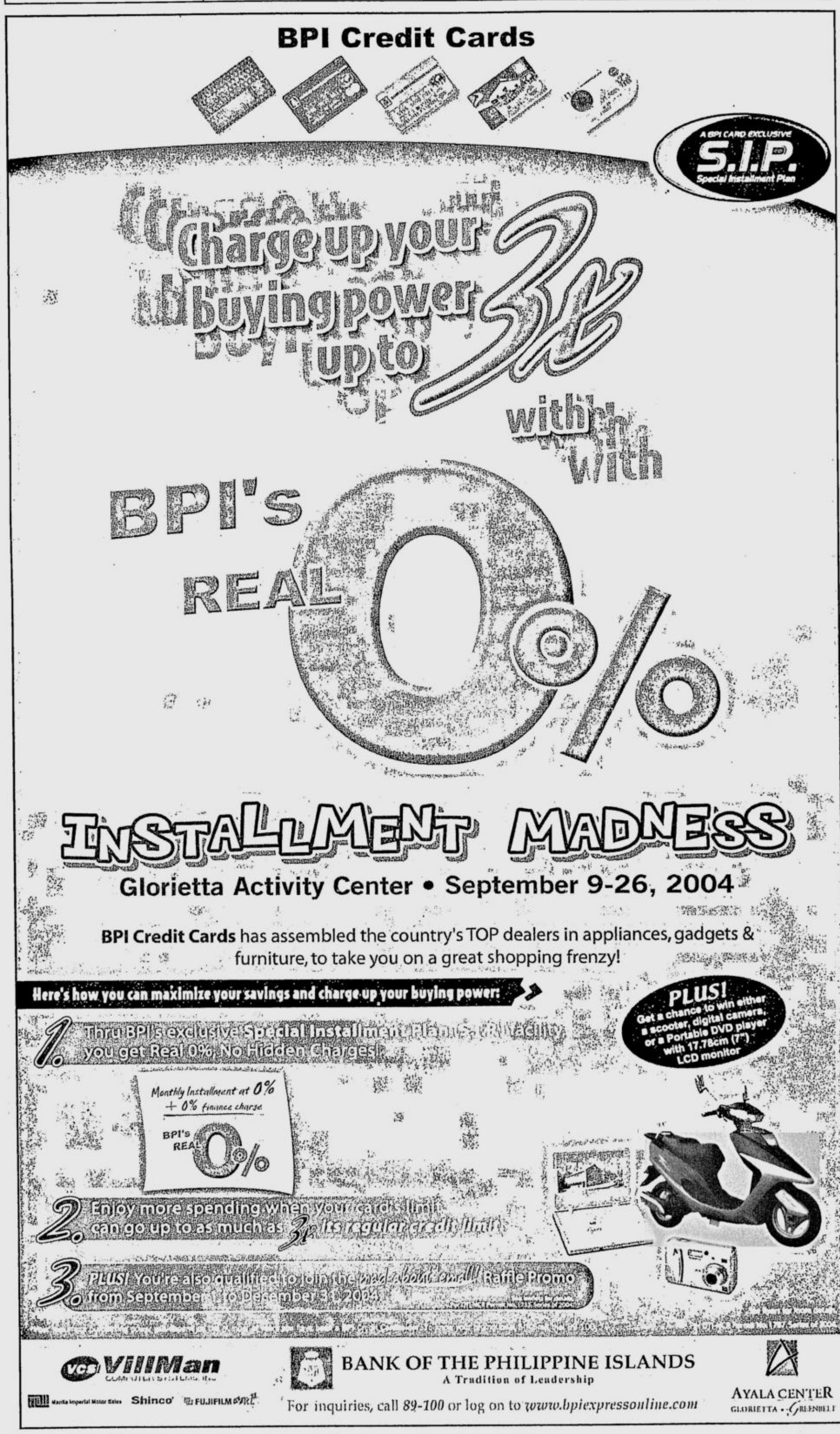

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Verns Buckley
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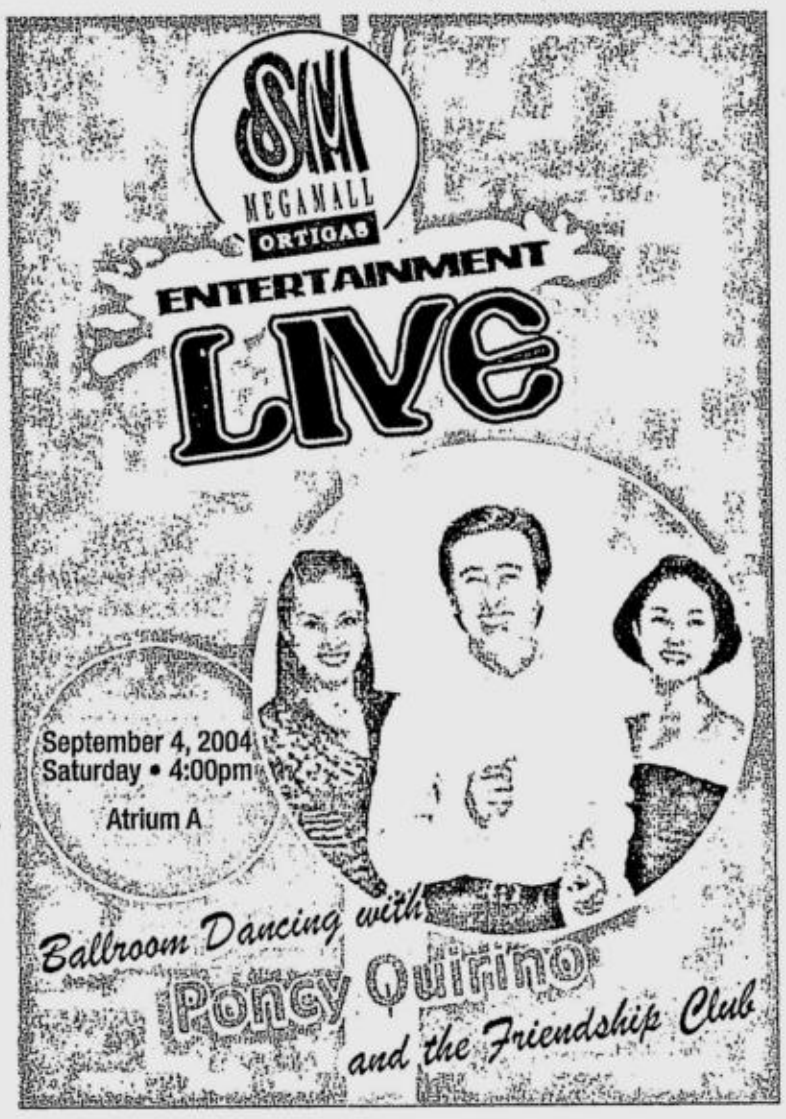
SUPER! MARKET

How bazaar!

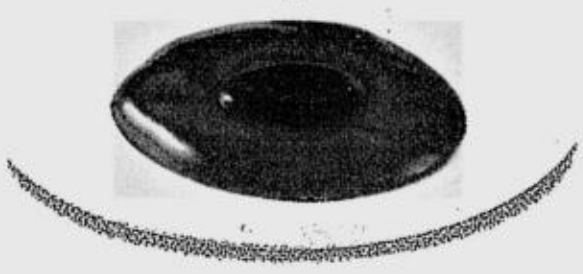
STORY ON PAGE E2

RECORD NUMBER. The Super! Market–celebrity charity bazaar at Rockwell was able to draw in crowds that shopped till we dropped. To all of you, you are Super!

A motley mix of 50 booths, hundreds of shoppers and a dozen of Piolo's polos made Super! Market one fun but bizarre Sunday



BROWN & RED:
In Perfect Harmony.



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DETAIL THERAPY. Just Shop's Jenni Epperson checks out the merchandise

EXTRA SHOPPING CHALLENGE. Phoemela Barranda displays more than just her pretty face.

UNDER THE SKIRT. Geneva Cruz and KC Montero d shopping together

BAZAAR LOVE TRIANGLE. Gino de la Paz, Tals Diaz and Tim Yap

SUPER! MARKET

How bazaar!

By Gino de la Paz and Tals Diaz

(GINO) As a certified bazaar virgin, I didn't know what to expect at last Sunday's Super! Market. Turning up a couple hours late, I had no choice but to brace myself and face a torrent of bargain-hunters, crazed shopaholics, and maybe a few kleptomaniacs despite my total lack of vending experience.

(TALS) As a true blue bazaar queen, having experienced being at both sides of the table, I felt right at home in the thriving market. The usual suspects were around: the *fashionistas,* the bargain sharks circling about for fresh bazaar virgin blood, the impulse buyers and the nosy little kids who never buy anything but still manage to mess up seller's wares. The only difference with this one, however, was the fact that celebrities were offering up some of their stuff to the gods of *ukay,* for a good cause. Many shoppers were buzzing about, asking if Piolo's polos had arrived.

(GINO) Yeah, by 1 p.m., half of Manila had managed to sneak into The Loft, disobeying human traffic regulations all for the chance to snag Piolo's old Zara shirts. I was selling my old Costume National but I had to pass myself off as Jim Yap, Tim Yap's brother, just for these serial shoppers to give me the time of day. Even then, they still said my merch was *mahal.* Oh well, I hauled in enough to buy half a new stereo for my car. Our beneficiary, Hands On Manila, must be thanking Jesus right now.

(TALS) You really can make a lot of money—tax free—at bazaars, especially if you're introducing something new, innovative and unique that the spending public hasn't seen before. You can also blow a lot of money at bazaars, especially when you chance upon new, innovative and unique stuff that you haven't seen before. So far, with the money I made with my handmade accessories, I used it to buy hand-painted bracelets from Bohemi-Ana, a pair of Havaianas (I just can't get enough of these feet sweets) and vintage skirts from fellow columnist Gino de la Paz. He did not give me a discount.

(GINO) But I did, Tals! I heard that Phoemela Barranda made a killing by selling the clothes and accessories from her years of modeling. Mylene Dizon was hawking her handmade journals. Hey, Kate Torralba's booth was jampacked with *fashionistas* frothing at the mouth. Who can argue with great PR?

(TALS) I saw Tim Yap a few tables away, surrounded by mountains of clothes from his very own closet, as well as from the private collections of KC Concepcion, JM Rodriguez and Piolo Pascual. It's amazing what shoppers would do to own KC's knick-knacks. Including harrassing Abet, Tim's driver.

(GINO) Who needs eBay when you have a bizarre bazaar like this? Before walking off with their purchases, grinning customers came up to ask me if Super! would do this again. If the huge turnout at Super! Market is any indication, the public should expect a sequel very, very soon.

NO PDA AT THE BAZAAR. Arvin and his bestseller, Super!'s Pam Pastor

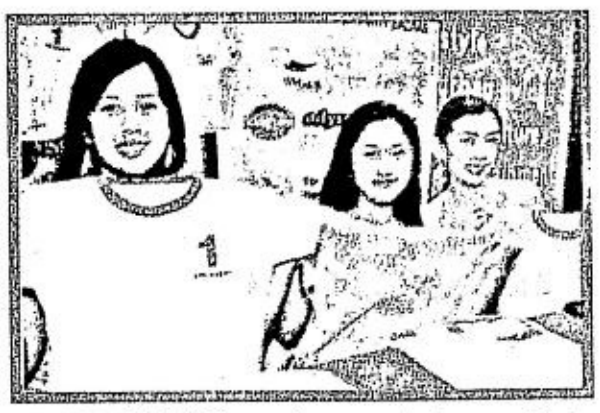
SUPER! BAZAAR shoppers are pretty shoppers

SUPER! MARKET–for all ages

RATED R. Rafael Rosell is our cutest shopper

MODEL UNITS. Rissa Samson's clothes sold like hotcakes

BAZAAR PRINCESS. Kate Torralba, crowd-drawer

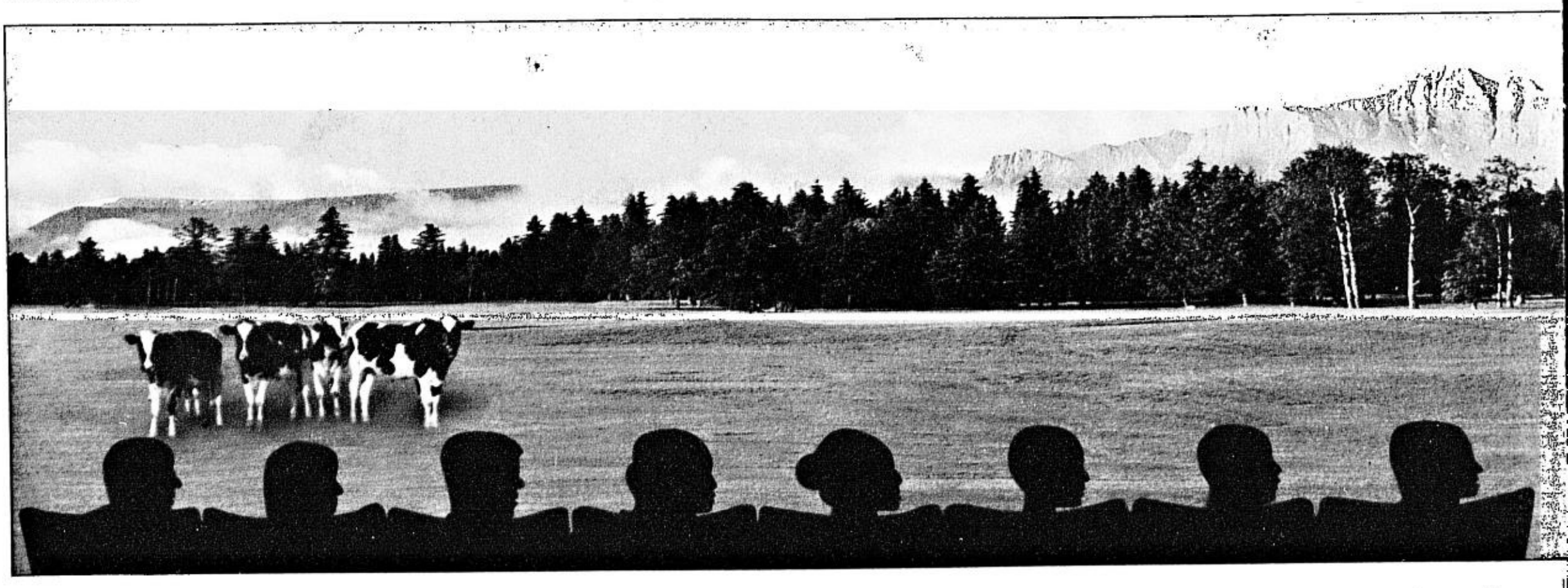


WE ARE SUPER! Hottest items on the bazaar list–I Am Super! T-shirts

LUST FOR LIFE. Lyn Tamayo, starmaker

SUPER-DUPER MARKETING. Hazel, Ching, Joseph, Mascy and Chris did a Super! job

THE FAMILY THAT SHOPS TOGETHER, STAYS TOGETHER. INQUIRER financ man Luis Ymson and his family



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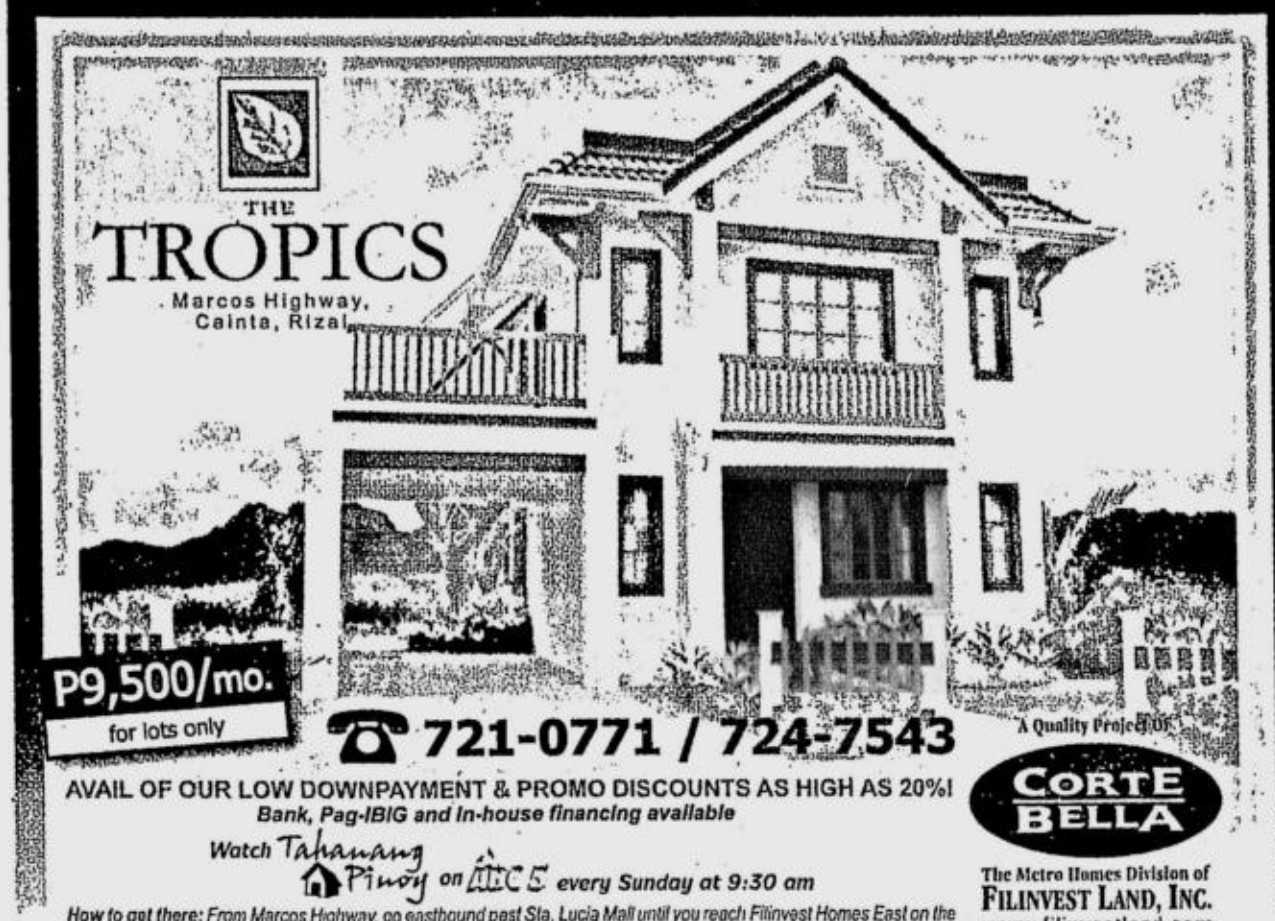
AKA-SELLA. DJ Mike Beatbox selling his used Mossimo underwear

PERKY AND PREGGY. Mylene Dizon and her handmade journals

THE BAZAARISTA AND THE BOSS. Just Shop's Kat Cruz with INQUIRER chair Marixi Prieto

Discover new beginnings here at The Tropics



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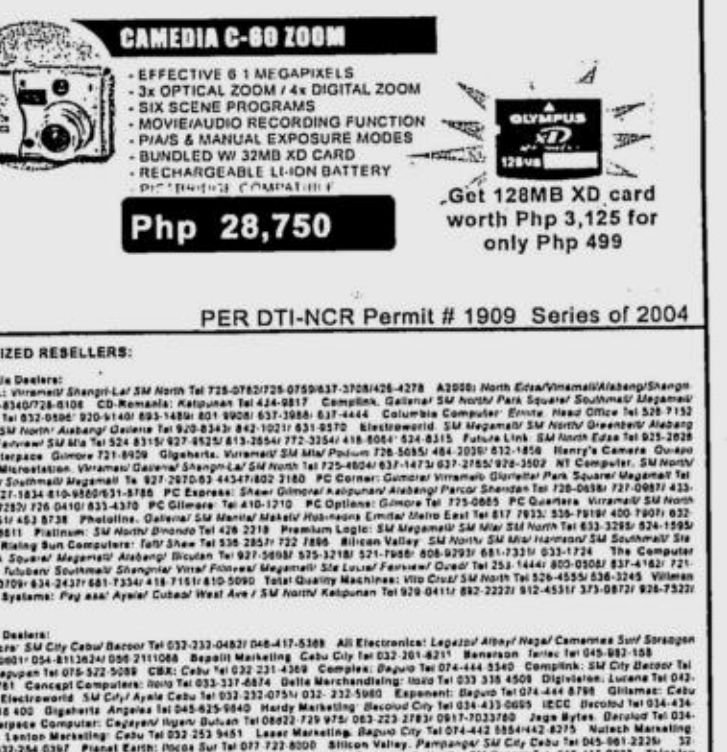

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EDSA corner Shaw Boulevard, Mandaluyong City

SHANGRI-LA CINEPLEX

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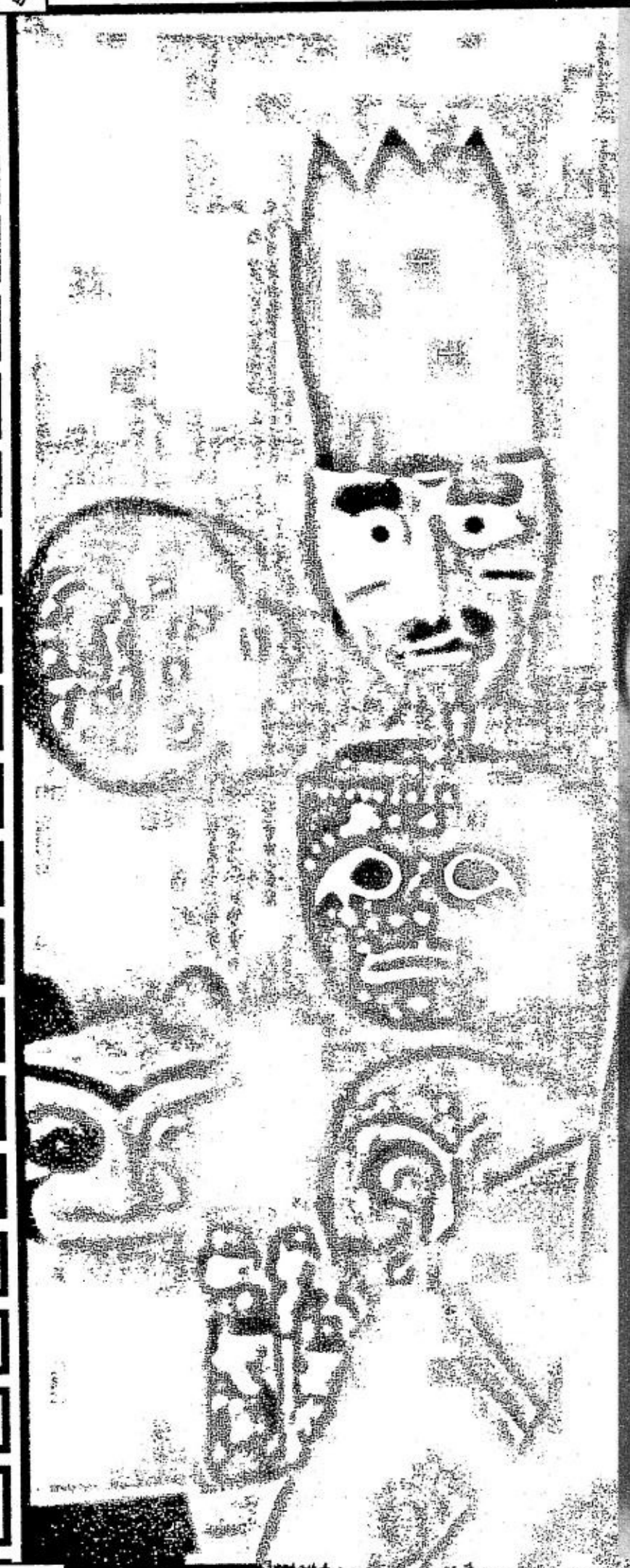

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My special K trip

HAIR DO! Sandwiched between Jesi Mendez and Henri Calayag

MAKEOVER MADNESS. Angelique Villaraza, Kinny Salas, Pepper Teehankee and Celine Lopez

INNER SHINE. Peachy Zulueta and Aya de Leon

PARLOR GAMES. Angelique Villaraza and Louis Kee of Emphasis

SALON SEXY. Fred Penales and Lucy Britanico

VAVA-Victor Ortega of Emphasis

It was my most surreal Singapore trip. On my way to Coco Latte to party with the Kerastase girls, I realized that I was sandwiched in a cab between two hair gods. To my right was THE Henri Calayag and to my left was Jesi Mendez.

Henri has been taking care of my hair for as long as I can remember, taking charge of its every twist and turn, bouffant, bangs and all. I was a tyke when I escorted my sister to her prom where I first met Jesi, who was doing her makeup.

Imagine having a hundred other hairdressers on board a plane going to the Lion City and what you'll get is a trip that is not worthy of any bad hair day. With an aim to continuously upgrade the hairdressing industry, L'Oreal's Kerastase group led a contingent of more than a hundred hair care specialists who completed a Salon Management course at the prestigious Toni & Guy Academy.

David Mercer and Janice Gan presided over the seminar that had Henri (of H Salon), Jesi, Teng Roma and Victor Ortega of Emphasis Salon, Peachy Zulueta of Piandre, Melanie Asidilio and Evangeline Evangelista of Hairwatch at the Manila Polo Club, Lucy Britanico, Fred Penales, Paul Maceda of Bench FIX, Alex Carbonell of Propaganda, Meldy Miram of hairbytes, and Boots Bonifacio from the David's Group of salons, among other salon industry name-droppables.

Kerastase what? If you didn't know, Kerastase is the Jaguar of hair care. It's about hair pampering, de luxe! I got to experience this hair-raising (because of how good it felt) spa experience in Singapore, using Kerastase products after I finished the seminar—and I must confess, I am now a convert.

I used to be a rinse-and-go kinda guy. After getting to know Kerastase, I am now Kyan Douglas! Hmm...maybe I can open my own salon as well. But I savor my daily trip to H Salon too much to even think of that.

Kerastase Business Unit Manager Tricia Duavit claims, "The Salon Owners" Summit is one way of showing Kerastase's holistic approach, valuing education and going beyond product training. We make sure our salon partners are well-equipped with information and techniques on salon practices that can subsequently help them serve their customers better."

According to Alex Carbonell, "I learned so much as a salon owner, educator and artist. Almost all aspects of professional hairdressing were clearly addressed. I plan to conduct similar training with my managers and all salon personnel." A response from Gina Villanueva of David's Salon: "The seminar had very informative topics that will enhance my role as a salon manager."

After indulging in hair care, I spent the rest of my Singapore stay swaying my long tresses —now softer, smoother and shinier. Gosh, I sound like a shampoo ad.

Now *that's* surreal.

PROPAGANDIST Alex Carbonell

DJ Dyke at Coco Latte

THE MOST ardent student, wins.

PARLOR POSSE. The Kerastase team with Toni & Guy at the Singapore Academie

RE-BONDED. Paula Cajucom, Tricia Duavit and Tessa Dragon

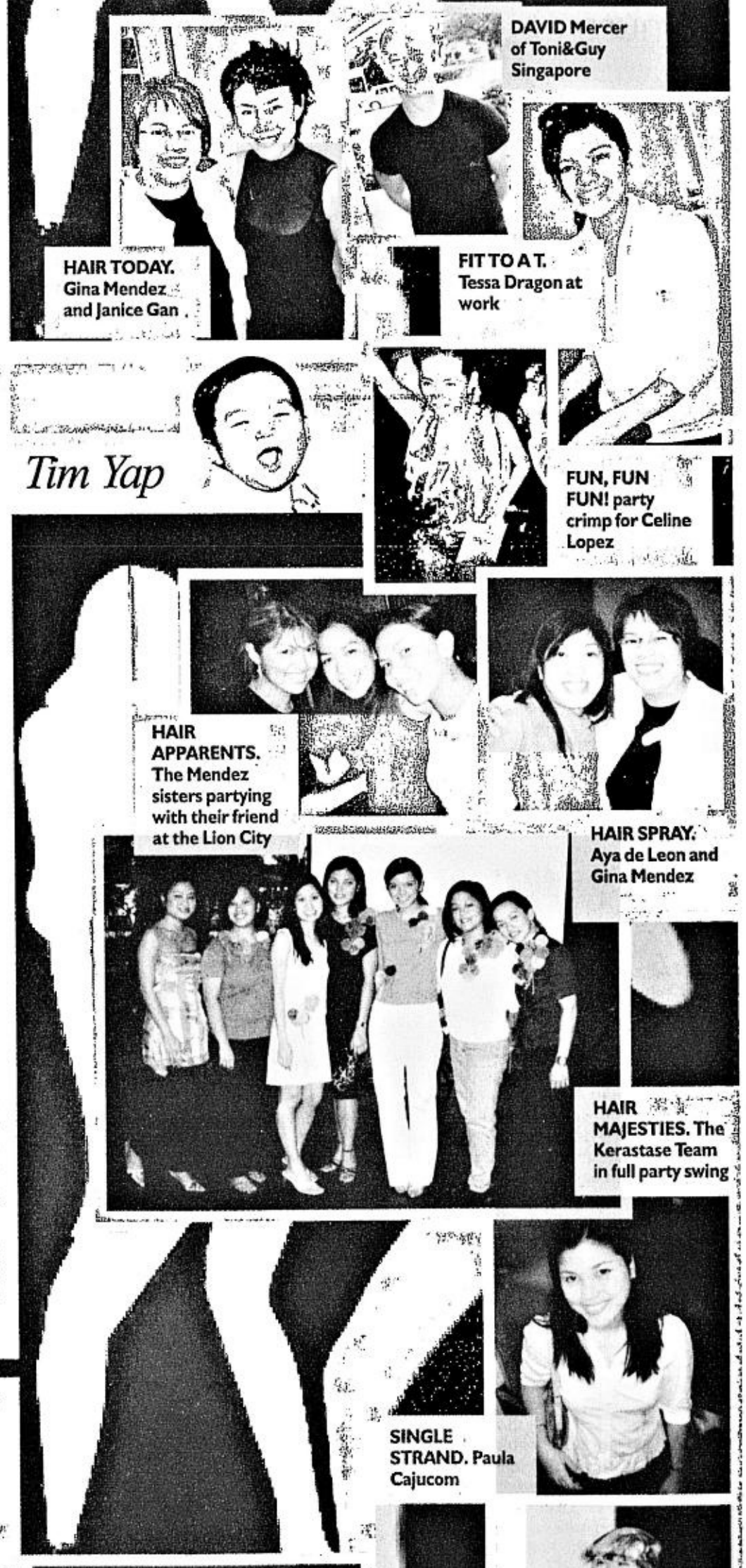
A-LIST L'Oreal team members Angelique Villaraza and Tessa Dragon

In the 1960's, when haircare was still considered pharmaceutical treatment, L'Oreal developed a segment of the market that had remained untapped: hair hygiene. Kerastase was founded in 1964. Its products were sold exclusively in hairdressing salons and had a single slogan: Caring for the hair means making it beautiful.

hairdresser as consultant

The hairdresser, who had passionately pushed Kerastase service, became a consultant to the care and treatment of hair. He became an essential force in the trend toward healthy hair. Kerastase today continues to respond to the needs of hairdressers and makes the hairdresser a consultant. A hairdresser's work is tough and day-to-day in professional life. Many extraordinary hairdressers know good or bad hair. A hairdresser is the guardian of the hair. He is a hairdresser, a consultant, a friend, a confidant, a psychologist, a counselor, a hairdresser.

TRESS PASSES. In Singapore party mode



DAVID Mercer of Toni&Guy Singapore

HAIR TODAY. Gina Mendez and Janice Gan

FIT TO A T. Tessa Dragon at work

Tim Yap

FUN, FUN FUN! party crimp for Celine Lopez

HAIR APPARENTS. The Mendez sisters partying with their friend at the Lion City

HAIR SPRAY. Aya de Leon and Gina Mendez

HAIR MAJESTIES. The Kerastase Team in full party swing

SINGLE STRAND. Paula Cajucom

BEST tressed winner, Gina Villanueva of David's

IF YOU CAN'T LIVE IN CONNECTICUT, the next best thing is to head over to the Shu Uemura counters at Rustan's

FOR A PERFECT WORLD, use Shu Uemura Lollishine Rouge in 136

How to be the perfect Stepford Wife

Shu Uemura spills the beans

AT LAST, the secret is out! Cult cosmetic brand Shu Uemura has revealed that it was the official on-set make-up brand for one of the most awaited movies of the year, "The Stepford Wives."

With Nicole Kidman, Glenn Close, Bette Midler and Faith Hill in the cast, women all over the world are in a frenzy to replicate the characters' flawless looks.

A long-running secret in many Hollywood stars' beauty kits, the Japanese cosmetic brand has always been synonymous with high-quality professional products. Shu Uemura's Eyelash Curler, Cleansing Oil and Nobara Foundation are fixtures on the must-have lists of the likes of Gwyneth Paltrow, Cate Blanchett, Daryl Hannah, and Kate Winslet. In short, the brand was a shoo-in for "The Stepford Wives."

Since the film's premiere in the United States—and now, in the Philippines—women, from CEOs and professionals to ladies of leisure, have been dying to know how to get that fresh-faced, wide-eyed, immaculately blushed cheeks, rosy pout. The "Stepford" look.

Makeup artist Bernadette Mazur created the knock-out looks that bought the "wives" to life. She reveals how anyone can recreate the look without having to be in Hollywood!

Shu Uemura products are available at Rustan's Makati and Rustan's Shangri-La Plaza Mall.

Lips

For perfectly pink, healthy-looking lips, try Shu Uemura Lollishine Rouge Lipstick in 334, 344 or 353.

And remember: Always smile. A Stepford Wife radiates warmth, joy and happiness at all times. As the movie character Claire Wellington (played by Glenn Close) says: "We always want to look our very best!"

BE THE DOLL that you've always wanted to be

Complexion

Everyone knows that a perfect make-up base is the first step to a perfect made-up look! That's everyone, including Kylie Minogue, Elle MacPherson, Cameron Diaz and Lucy Torres-Gomez, who use Shu Uemura's powders and foundations on and off stage.

A Stepford Wife should never appear tired or spotty, so cover up unsightly under-eye bags and imperfections with Shu Uemura's Pro Concealer for Eyes and Face. Pep up the face throughout the day with any one of Shu Uemura's 10 revitalizing Deepsea Water Sprays. Sadie Frost favors the Rose scent!

Cheeks

For the illusion of health and vitality, lightly dust the apples of the cheeks with Shu Uemura Glow On Blush in M Wine 23 and P Red 14. This will instantly perk up the face. Not limited to their screen personas, Kate Moss, Jennifer Lopez, Gerri Halliwell and Regine Velasquez have been spotted purchasing these in bulk!

Eyes

They are said to be the windows to the soul. So perk up your soul with Shu Uemura's collection of Pressed Eye Shadows in delightful shades, like IR Purple 708, M White 910, M Purple 702, M Rose 140, M Pink 102. Take a queue from Drew Barrymore, Helena Christensen, Victoria Beckham and Kris Aquino, who use these vivid colors to intensify their eyes.

If your lashes are sparse, anything from Shu Uemura's extensive range of false eyelashes can help fulfill the illusion of perfection.

Speaking of false eyelashes, Jennifer Lopez and Madonna's make-up artists have commissioned custom-made false eyelashes from Shu Uemura. A make-up master willing to use and try anything to help a woman attain her optimum beauty, Shu Uemura himself designed and created the false eyelashes made of mink fur.

JLo's pair debuted at the Oscars two years ago, when she wore a see-thru Chanel gown. Madonna's make-up artist, Gina Brook, personally met with Shu Uemura to specify 10 different sets, to match her famous client's costumes for the upcoming "re:Invention Tour"!

HERE'S to Mattel for world domination.

Vote now for the MTV Style Awards!

For the first time ever, MTV Philippines will bring together the country's coolest and classiest personalities for a night of funk and fashion at the MTV Style Awards. The country's favorite music channel will honor the country's purveyors of standout style in the worlds of fashion, music, movies, television, business, sports, and politics in an ultra-chic event on Sept. 28, 2004 at the NBC Tent in Fort Bonifacio.

"Through the years, we've seen how music greatly influences one's clothing and lifestyle. Since its birth, MTV has been in the center of this influence," says Chris Lopez, marketing director of MTV Philippines. "There's a certain style associated with MTV. Looking back at Madonna, Michael Jackson, and MC Hammer during their glory days, they all stood out with their unique sense of style. With MTV Style Awards, we aim to recognize-particularly here in the Philippines-the style movers and shakers of this generation."

Awards will be given out in 8 people's choice categories and 12 jury categories. Here are the nominees for the people's choice awards:

MEN BEHIND MTV. Francis Lumen and Jack Madrid at Coffee Bean and Tea Leaf

Most Influential International Artist:
1. Beyonce
2. Jennifer Lopez
3. Lenny Kravitz
4. Britney Spears
5. Avril Lavigne

Favorite MTV Rockstyle (Male):
1. Bamboo Mañalac
2. Rico Blanco
3. Karl Roy
4. Christian Bautista
5. Jay R

Favorite MTV Divastyle:
1. Barbie Almalbis
2. Wawi Navarroza
3. Regine Velasquez
4. Cynthia Alexander
5. Grace Nono

Favorite Stylish Leading Lady:
1. Aubrey Miles
2. Claudine Barretto
3. Angel Aquino
4. Regine Velasquez
5. Kris Aquino

Favorite Stylish Leading Man:
1. Jericho Rosales
2. Piolo Pascual
3. Aga Muhlach
4. Diether Ocampo
5. Richard Gomez

Favorite Stylish Dynamic Duo:
1. Ariel & Maverick
2. Kristine Hermosa & Diether Ocampo
3. Kris Aquino & Boy Abunda
4. Marc Nelson & Dyan Castillejo
5. Phoemela Barranda & Paolo Bediones

Favorite Stylish Power Player - Male:
1. Miguel Zubiri
2. Mar Roxas
3. Eddie Gil
4. Cheese Escudero
5. Lito Atienza

Favorite Stylish Power Player - Female:
1. Loren Legarda
2. Imee Marcos
3. Ces Drilon
4. Imelda Marcos
5. Gina de Venecia

Here are the nominees for the jury awards:

Male Fashion Model of the Year
1. Rich Herrera
2. Brent Javier
3. Borgy Manotoc
4. Marc Nelson
5. Corey Wills

Female Fashion Model of the Year
1. Nicolette Bell
2. Maike Evers
3. Kelly Misa
4. Isabel Roces
5. Rissa Samson

Technical Award for Makeup Artist of the Year
1. Henri Calayag
2. Lala Flores
3. Patrick Rosas
4. Juan Sarte
5. Xeng Zulueta

Technical Award for Stylist of the Year
1. Millet Arzaga
2. Jenni Epperson
3. Shahani Gania
4. Chechel Joson
5. Gian Romano

Revolutionary Designer of the Year
1. Ivarluski Aseron
2. Mich Dulce
3. Dennis Lustico
4. Joey Samson
5. Kate Torralba

Designer of the Year
1. Rajo Laurel
2. Jojie Lloren
3. Ignacio Loyola
4. Randy Ortiz
5. Patrice Ramos-Diaz

Best in Suit
1. Ed Calma
2. Juan Miguel Ongsiako
3. Joel Tantoco
4. Fred Uytengsu
5. Jaime Zobel

It Girl Style
1. Leica Carpo
2. Celine Lopez
3. Raya Mananquil
4. Kat Tantoco
5. Bea Valdez

Bachelor Style
1. Angelo Barretto
2. Victor Consunji
3. Borgy Manotoc
4. Marc Nelson

VJ STYLE AND SEDUCTION. KC Montero, Sarah Meier, Cindy Kurleto, Patty Laurel and Marc Abaya

Red Carpet Style
1. Nina Huang
2. Tina Maristela-Ocampo
3. Lucy Torres-Gomez
4. Hindy Weber-Tantoco
5. Lizzie Zobel

Fashion Photographer of the Year
1. Xander Angeles
2. Tom Epperson
3. Toto Labrador
4. Ronnie Salvacion
5. Lilen Uy

Most Stylish Music Video
1. 7 Foot Jr. - "Kwento"
2. Cambio - "DV"
3. Radioactive Sago Project - "Astro"
4. South Border - "The Show"
5. The Late Isabel - "Doll's Head"

There are four easy ways to vote for your favorite MTV Style Awards nominees:

1. Vote via e-mail by sending your votes to mtvstyleawards@mtv-asia.com
2. Fax your votes to 325-1MTV or 325-1688
3. Vote via SMS (for both Smart and Globe subscribers) by sending MTVSTYLE to 29768
4. Log on to www.pinoyexchange.com/mtv

In addition to the people's choice categories, the MTV Style Council-an exclusive committee of top fashion editors, journalists, stylists, designers, photographers, and models assisted by MTV-will decide on the jury awards.

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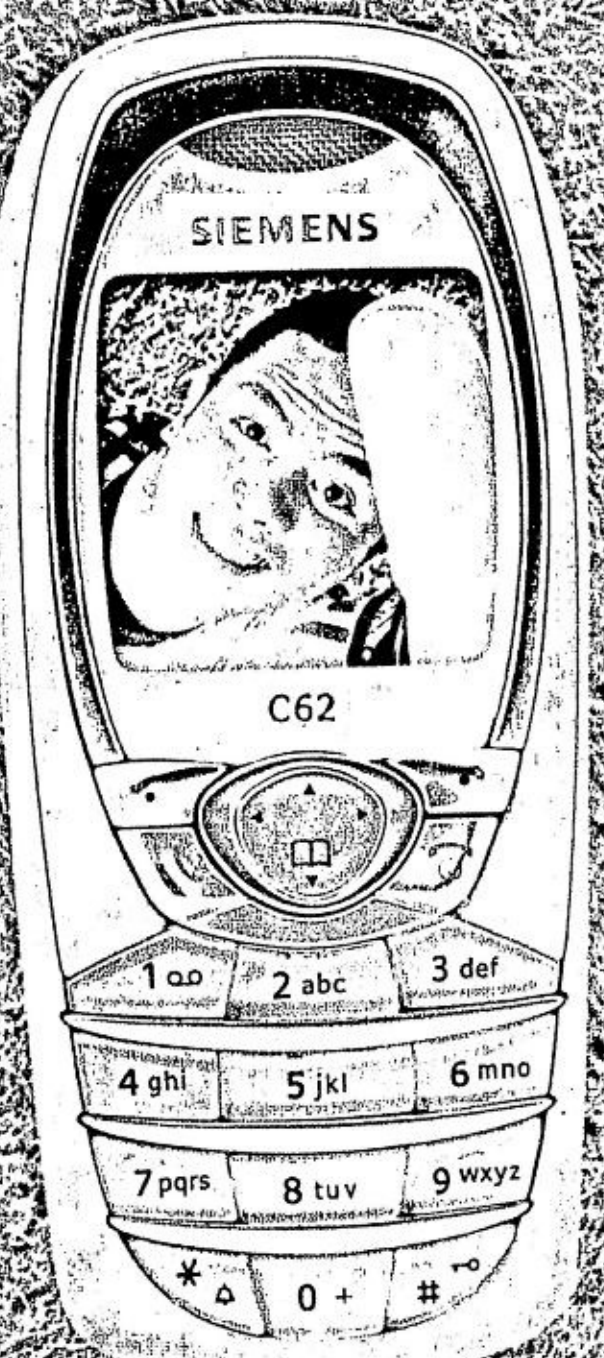

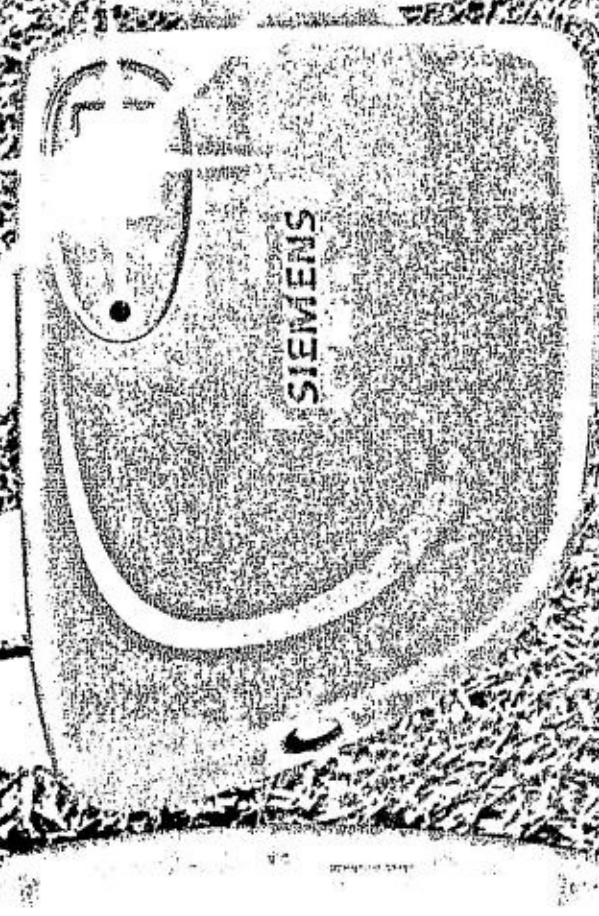

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Alcatel OT332	FREE	P4,000
Nokia 2300	FREE	P4,600
Nokia 2100	FREE	P4,900
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Nokia 3200 (MMS with built-in camera)	P8,400	P8,700

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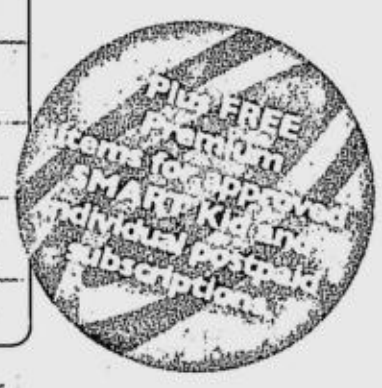

* FREE Phones are available under 24-month contract period, all under Plan 600, except for Nokia 3315 which is available under 18-month contract period only.

* FREE Phones must be enrolled under an Auto-Debit Agreement (ADA). In the absence of a credit card, subscriber must pay P1,400 plus the one (1) month advanced MSF to avail of the FREE Phone.

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